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INVINCIBLE



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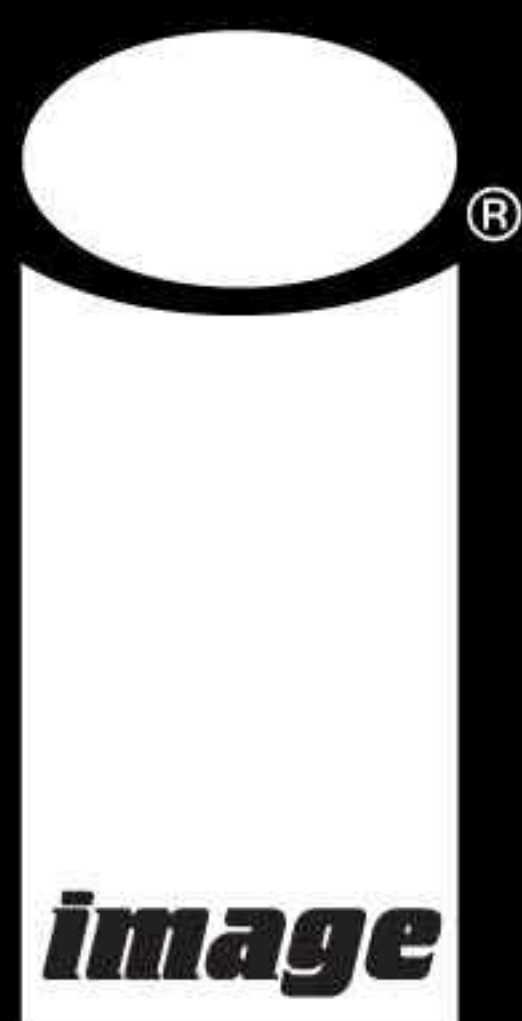


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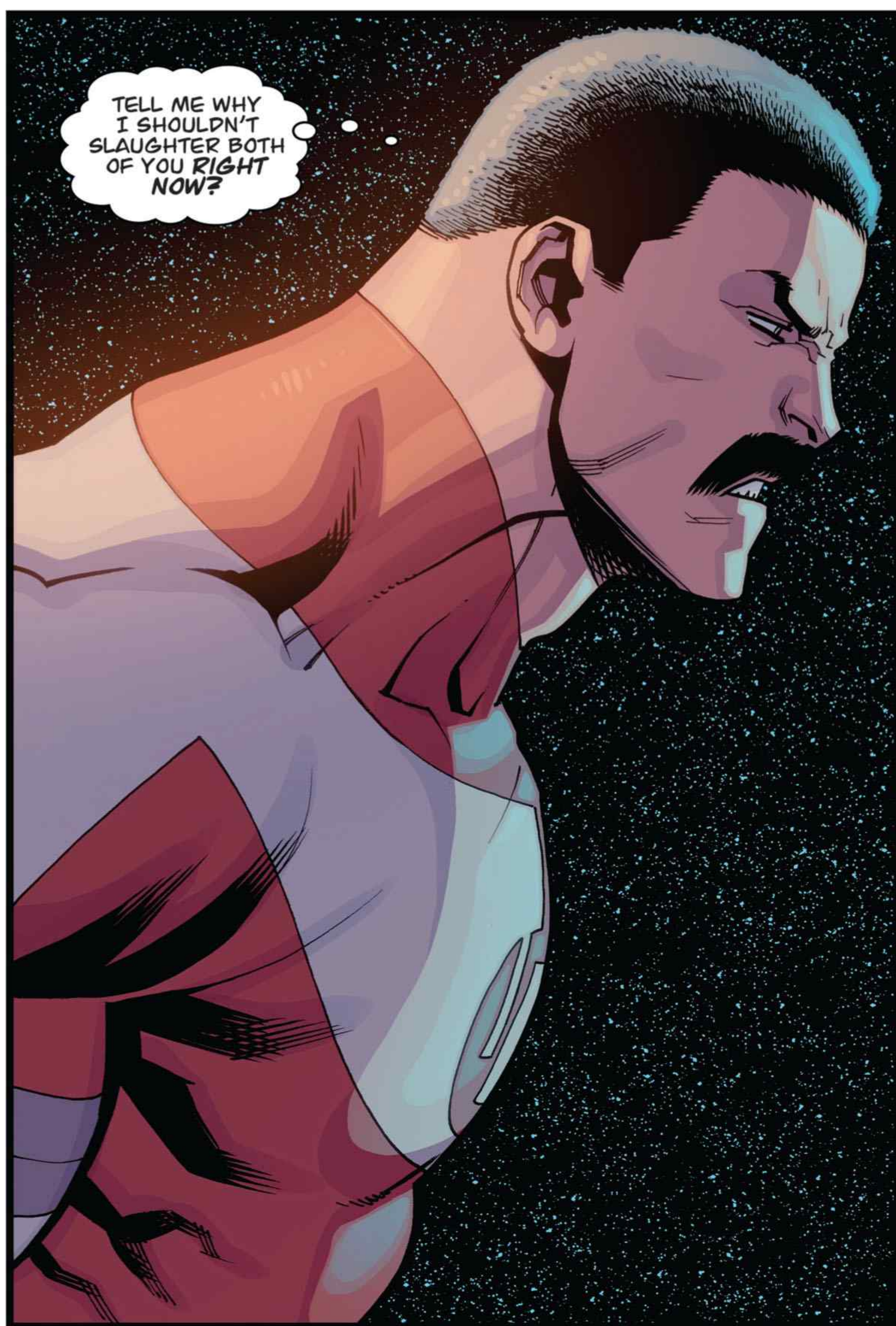
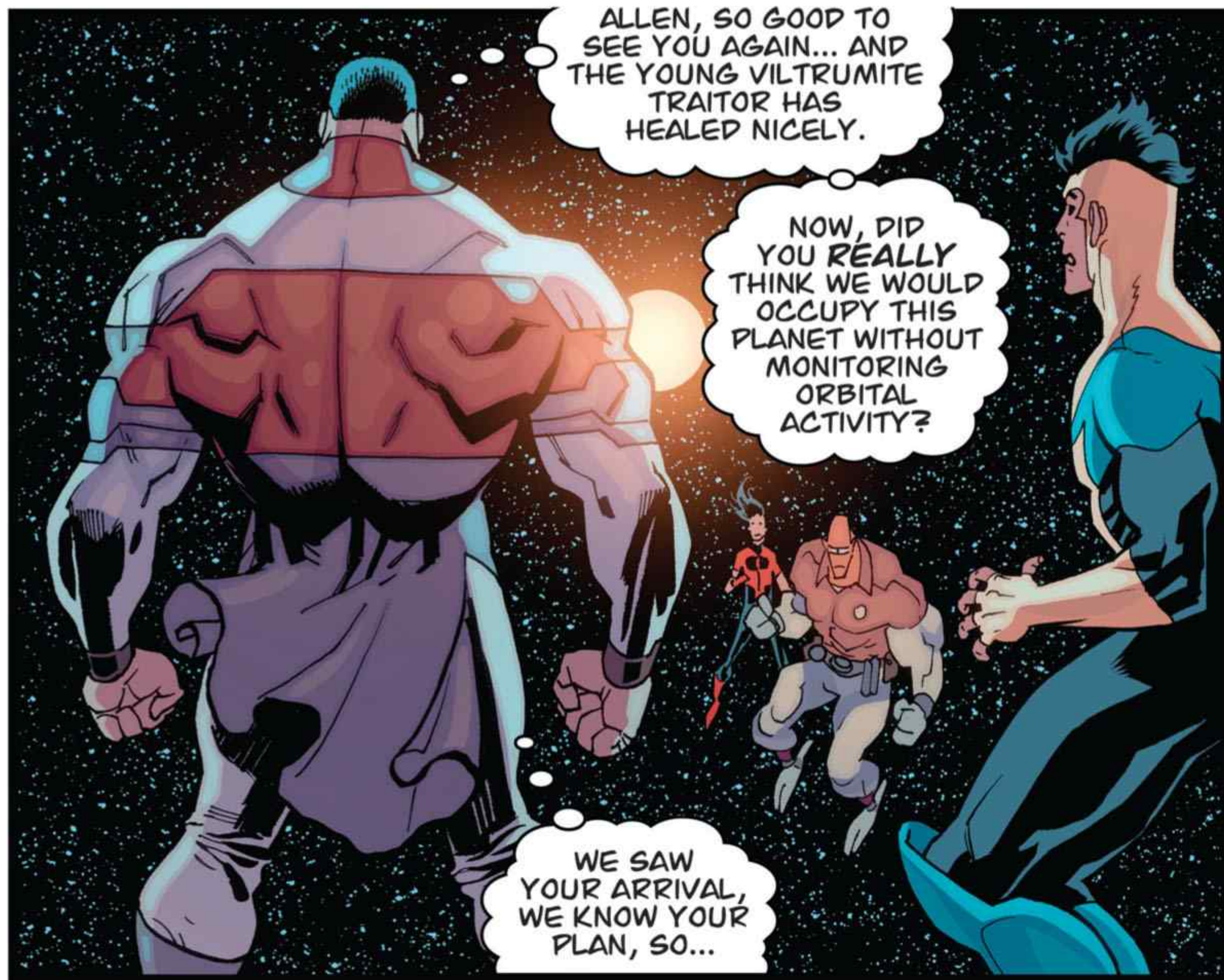
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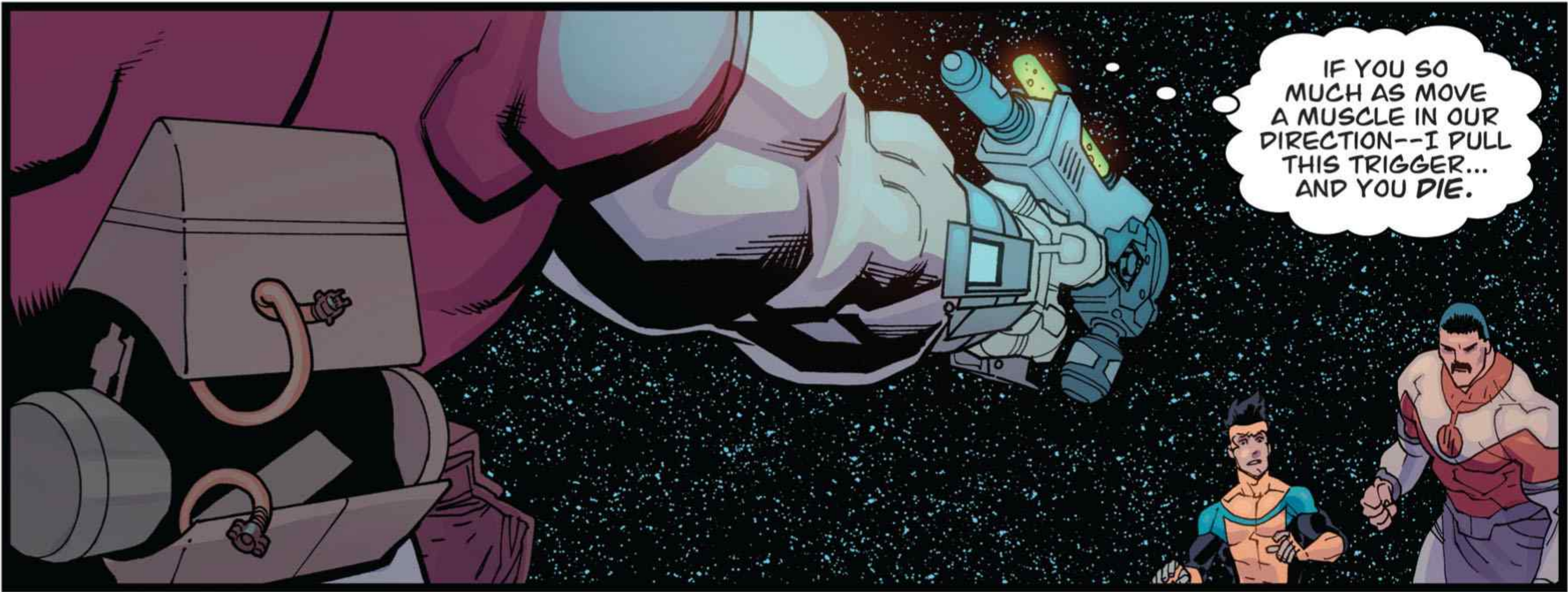
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WELL, THERE'S A FEW REASONS THAT COME TO MIND RANGING FROM THE POIGNANT AND BOLD TO THE MUNDANE AND DESPERATE.

I COULD LIST THEM ALL, BUT THAT WOULD TAKE A WHILE. SO I'LL JUST DIVE INTO THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE...



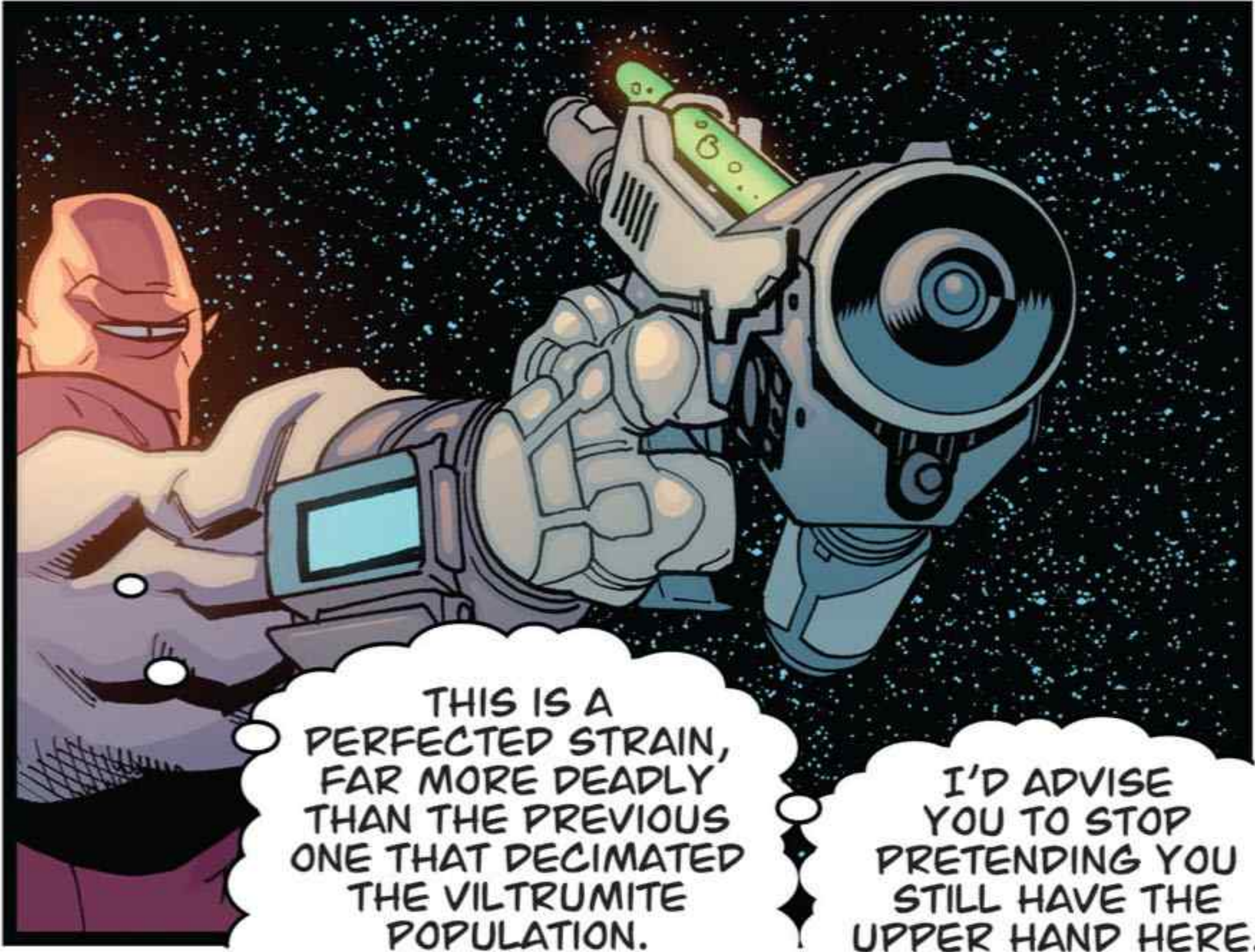
IF YOU SO MUCH AS MOVE A MUSCLE IN OUR DIRECTION--I PULL THIS TRIGGER... AND YOU DIE.



YOU CLEARLY HAVE NO IDEA HOW HARD I'VE BEEN FIGHTING THE URGE TO KILL YOU SIMPLY TO SEE THAT GIANT RIDICULOUS UNOPAN EYE BURST FORTH FROM YOUR SHATTERED SKULL...

NOW YOU SHOW ME **IMMEASURABLE** DISRESPECT BY THREATENING ME WITH THE SCOURGE VIRUS... THE THING THAT TURNED MY HOME PLANET INTO A **TOMB**... BEFORE YOU HELPED ITS CREATOR, **THAEDUS DESTROY** IT...

YOU HAVE **NO IDEA** THE RESTRAINT I'M EXERCISING AT THIS MOMENT...



THIS IS A PERFECTED STRAIN, FAR MORE DEADLY THAN THE PREVIOUS ONE THAT DECIMATED THE VILTRUMITE POPULATION.

I'D ADVISE YOU TO STOP PRETENDING YOU STILL HAVE THE UPPER HAND HERE.



NO MATTER THE LEVEL OF PERFECTION YOU'VE ACHIEVED WITH THIS NEW STRAIN... I KNOW I COULD SEPARATE YOUR HEAD FROM YOUR BODY BEFORE THE VIRUS TAKES EFFECT ON ME.

JUST SO WE'RE **CLEAR** ON THE TERMS OF THIS STANDOFF.



OKAY, SO
IT'S OVER, RIGHT?
ALLEN--YOU'RE
PACKING IT IN AND
GOING HOME?

THRAGG KNOWS--
YOU'RE NOT CATCHING
THEM BY SURPRISE--
YOU RELEASE THIS THING
INTO EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE
NOW AND THEY JUST TAKE
OFF, LEAVING THE PLANET
BEFORE THE VIRUS
SPREADS.

SO THAT'S
IT--YOUR
PLAN IS
OFFICIALLY
FOILED.



COME ON,
GUYS... LET'S
NOT DO
ANYTHING
CRAZY,
OKAY?

I'M SO
TOTALLY
UNPREPARED
FOR CRAZY
RIGHT NOW.



LET ME
BE CLEAR.
THERE WILL
BE NO FIGHT
HERE... NOT
NOW.

AS THE NEW HEAD OF THE
COALITION OF PLANETS, ALLEN...
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE
UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE...
AND NEED TO PROVE YOURSELF
WORTHY OF THE
APPOINTMENT.

I WOULD
LIKE TO
PROPOSE A
TRUCE.



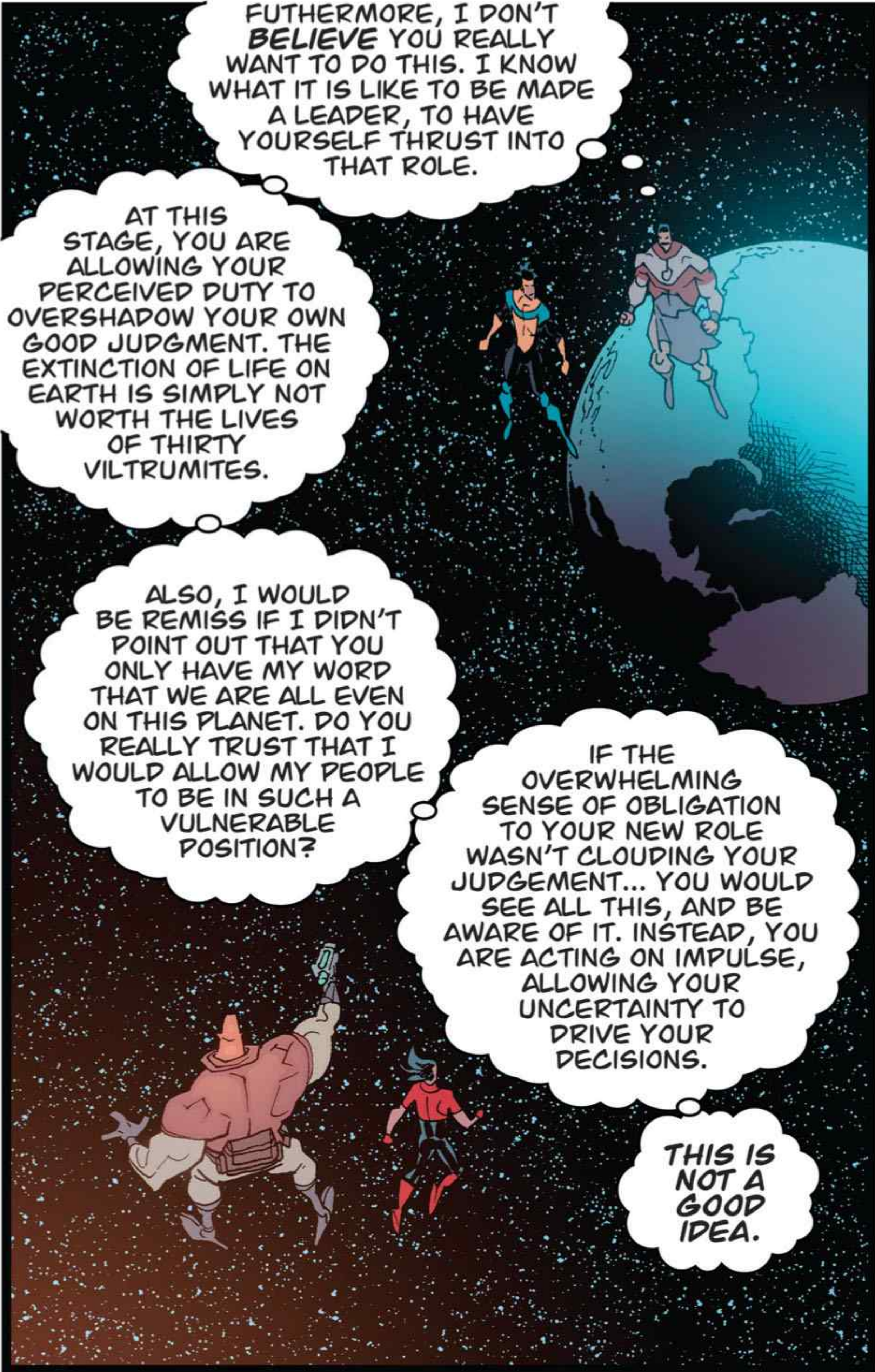
A TRUCE?
REALLY?



YES. I COULD
SLAUGHTER YOU NOW,
MAYBE YOU WOULD
INFECT ME, MAYBE
NOT. MY PEOPLE WOULD
BE SAFE, YOU WOULD
BE DEAD.

BUT WHAT DOES
THAT ACCOMPLISH?
YOU ARE NOT SO STUPID
THAT THIS IS THE **ONLY**
SAMPLE OF THE VIRUS.
YOU'VE GOT IT STORED
AWAY SOMEWHERE,
BEYOND MY
REACH.

SO AFTER
YOU DIE YOUR
SUCCESSOR COMES
BACK HERE AND
WE'RE IN THE
EXACT SAME
PLACE.



FUTHERMORE, I DON'T
BELIEVE YOU REALLY
WANT TO DO THIS. I KNOW
WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE MADE
A LEADER, TO HAVE
YOURSELF THRUST INTO
THAT ROLE.

AT THIS
STAGE, YOU ARE
ALLOWING YOUR
PERCEIVED DUTY TO
OVERSHADOW YOUR OWN
GOOD JUDGMENT. THE
EXTINCTION OF LIFE ON
EARTH IS SIMPLY NOT
WORTH THE LIVES
OF THIRTY
VILTRUMITES.

ALSO, I WOULD
BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T
POINT OUT THAT YOU
ONLY HAVE MY WORD
THAT WE ARE ALL EVEN
ON THIS PLANET. DO YOU
REALLY TRUST THAT I
WOULD ALLOW MY PEOPLE
TO BE IN SUCH A
VULNERABLE
POSITION?

IF THE
OVERWHELMING
SENSE OF OBLIGATION
TO YOUR NEW ROLE
WASN'T CLOUDING YOUR
JUDGEMENT... YOU WOULD
SEE ALL THIS, AND BE
AWARE OF IT. INSTEAD, YOU
ARE ACTING ON IMPULSE,
ALLOWING YOUR
UNCERTAINTY TO
DRIVE YOUR
DECISIONS.

THIS IS
NOT A
GOOD
IDEA.



CONSIDER HOW
YOU **REALLY**
FEEL ABOUT IT,
AND YOU WILL
AGREE.



OKAY...



SO NOW
WE'RE
GETTING
SOMEWHERE.

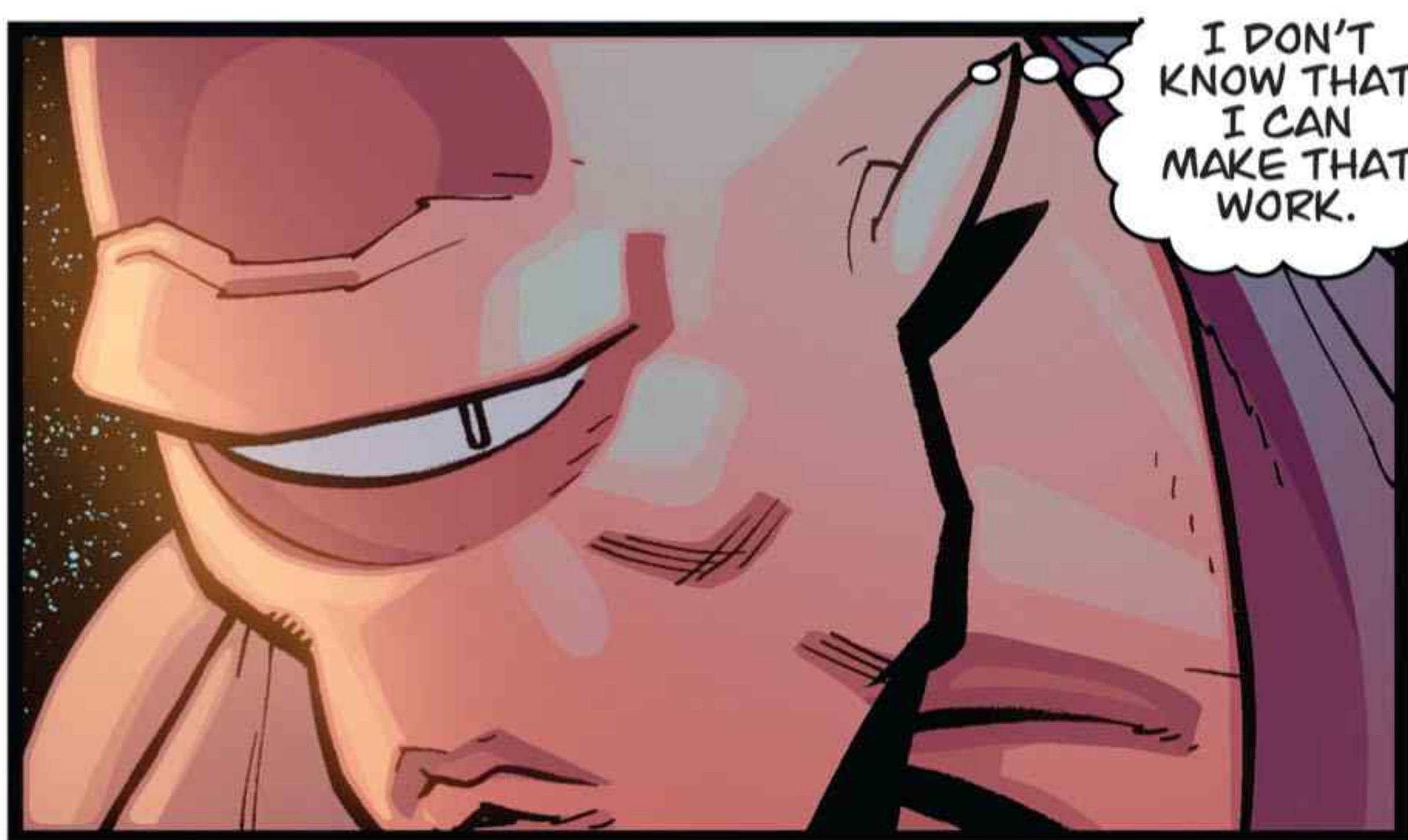


SO AGAIN, I PROPOSE A TRUCE. WE OCCUPY THIS PLANET, IT'S NOT A HOSTILE OCCUPATION, OUR PRESENCE IS LARGELY UNKNOWN BY THE POPULATION. YOU ARE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH IT... BUT I AM UNCOMFORTABLE WITH YOU HAVING THE SCOURGE VIRUS IN HAND, AT THE READY.

YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO STRIKE AT US WITH THIS VIRUS AT ANY TIME. WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO SLAUGHTER EVERY LIVING THING ON THIS PLANET--AND RESUME OUR WAR WITH THE COALITION.

WE ARE IN A STANDOFF. I SAY WE ALLOW OUR POSITION TO REMAIN AS SUCH, WITH EACH PARTY KEEPING THE OTHER IN CHECK.

WE WILL LIVE HERE, NOTHING MORE... AND IN RETURN, YOU WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO KILL US.



I DON'T KNOW THAT I CAN MAKE THAT WORK.



LET ME HELP YOU. YOU ARE BACKED INTO A CORNER.

YOU HAVE NO CHOICE.



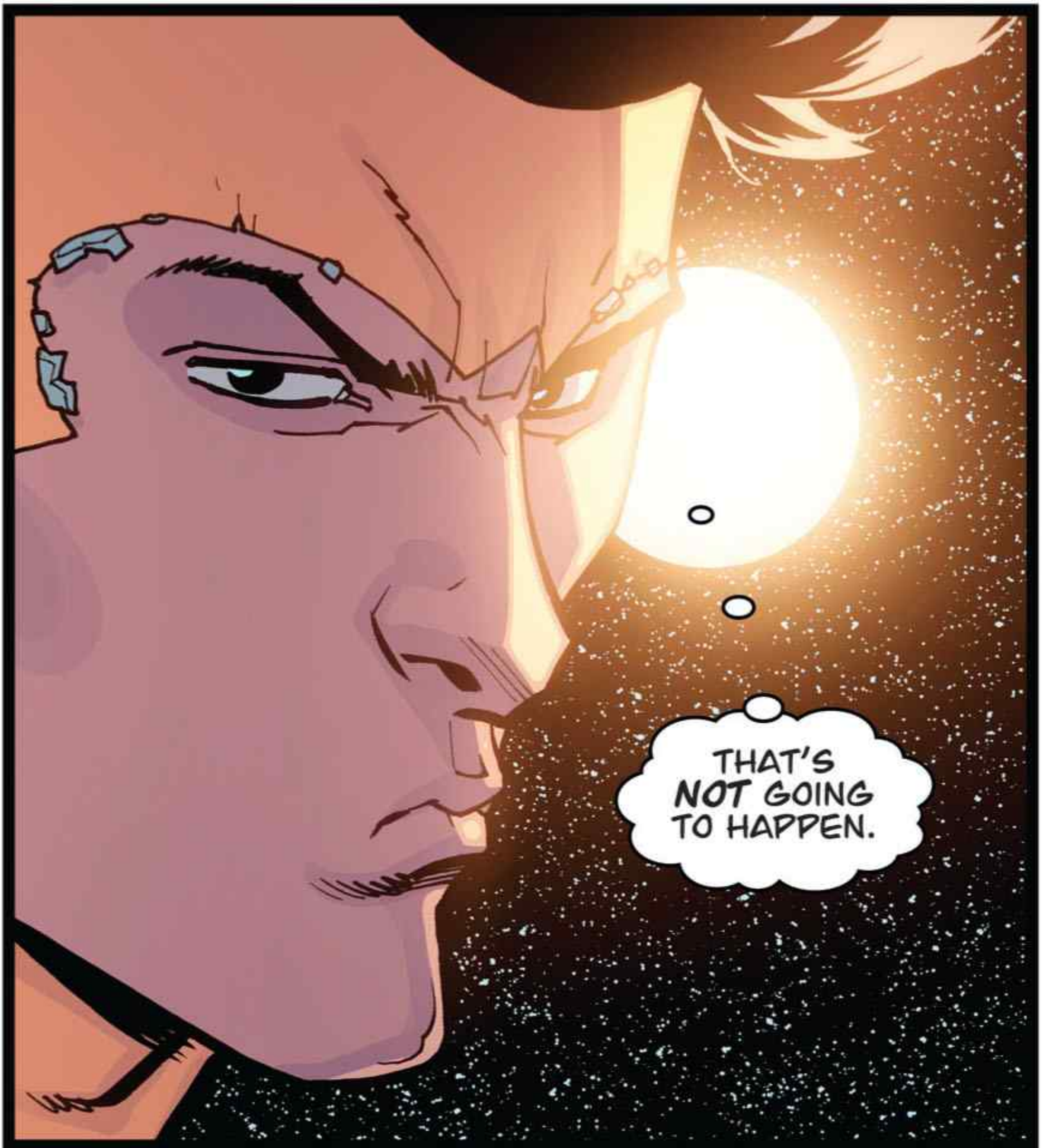
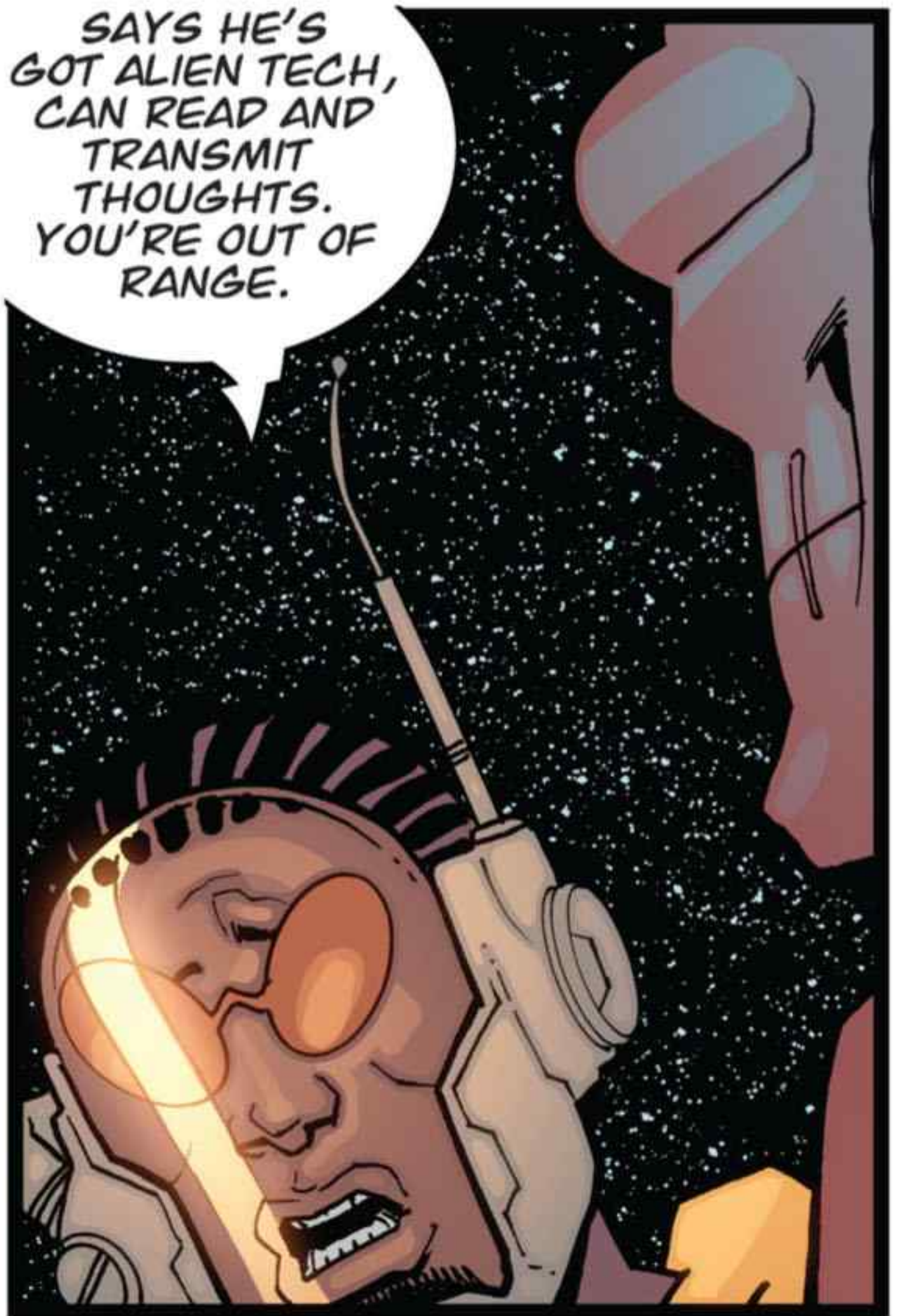
THE HELL WE DON'T! I'M WILLING TO BET YOUR PEOPLE ARE IN DEEP COVER... I BET THIS VIRUS WOULD GET TO THEM BEFORE THEY COULD GET OFF WORLD, WE MAY NOT GET ALL OF YOU, BUT--

OLIVER... STOP.

THRAGG IS RIGHT.



OH,
WHAT THE
HECK?





SUBDUE THEM ALL! MONSTER GIRL--YOU TAKE THE BIG ONE!

WHICH ONE?!

OH, CRAP-- COME ON, GUYS! DON'T DO THIS!

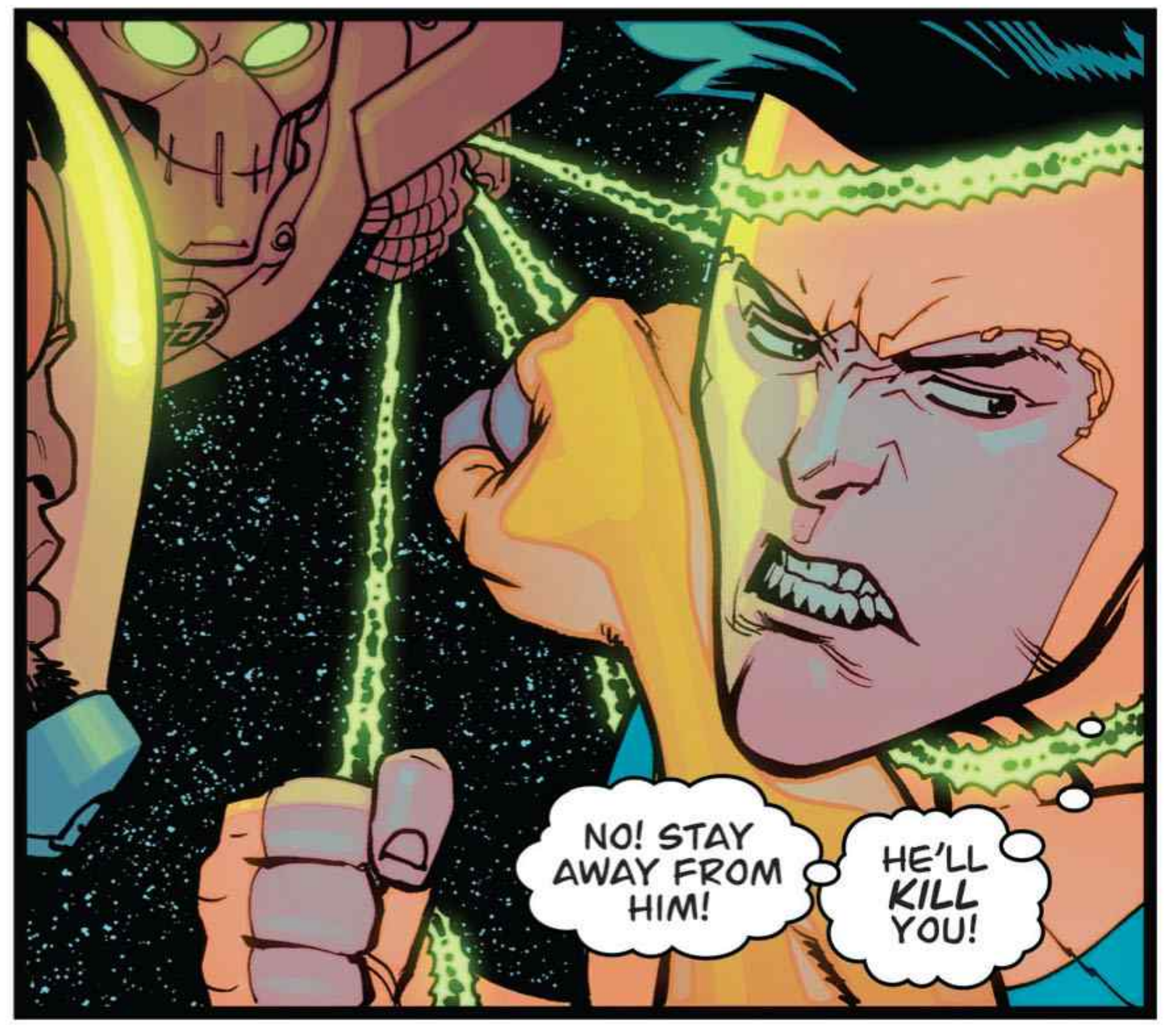


SORRY, MAN. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO LATELY... BUT IT'S GOT A LOT OF PEOPLE WORRIED. YOU'VE BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELF.

SURE--BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M WRONG.

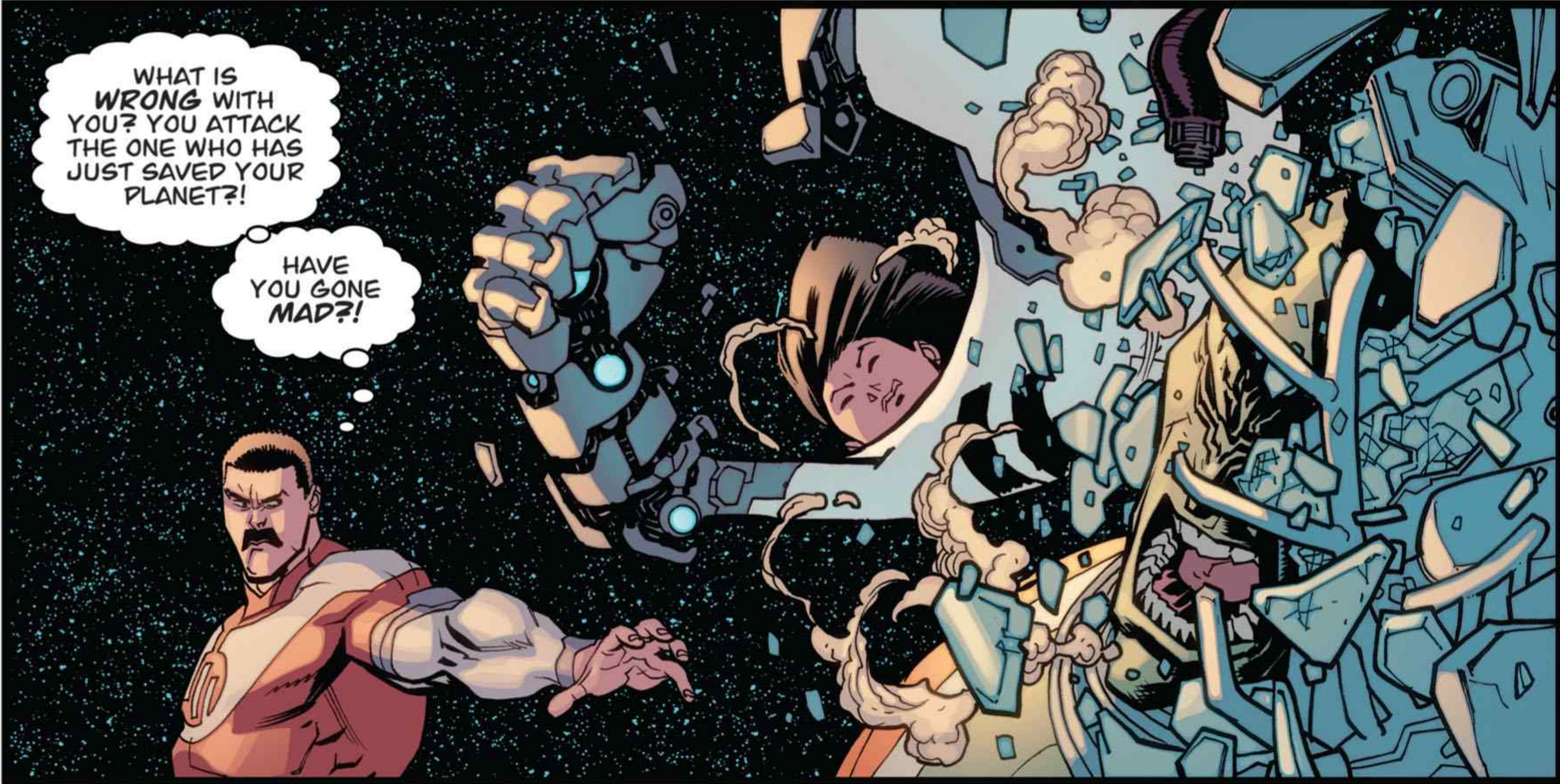


YOU'RE MINE, HANDSOME!



NO! STAY AWAY FROM HIM!

HE'LL KILL YOU!





WHILE HE'S
DISTRACTED!
THIS IS OUR
CHANCE!

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!



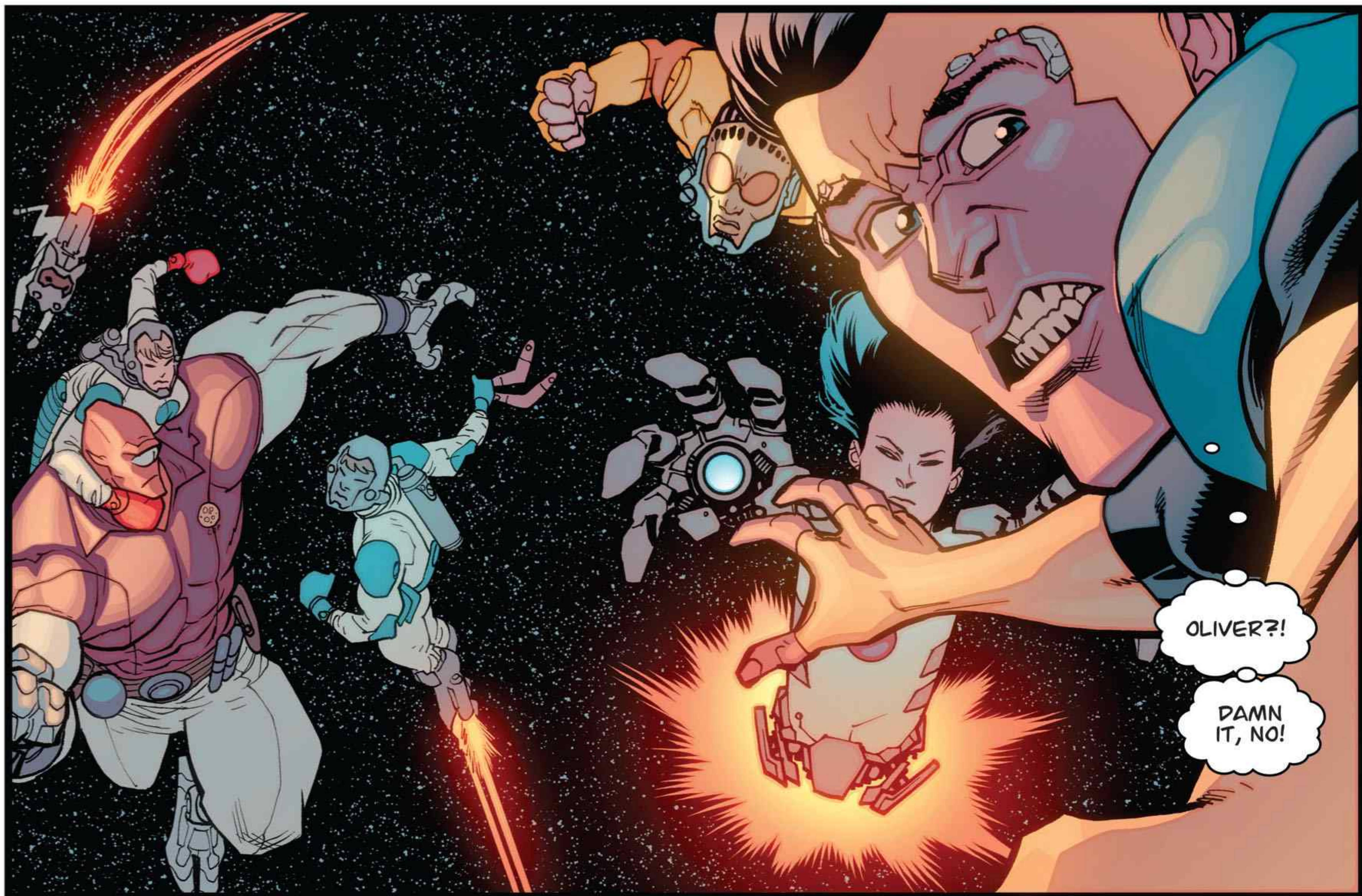
OLIVER,
NO!

HEY!



PLEASE DON'T
HURT THEM--
THEY'RE TRYING
TO DO GOOD
HERE!

MY
PATIENCE
ONLY GOES
SO FAR.

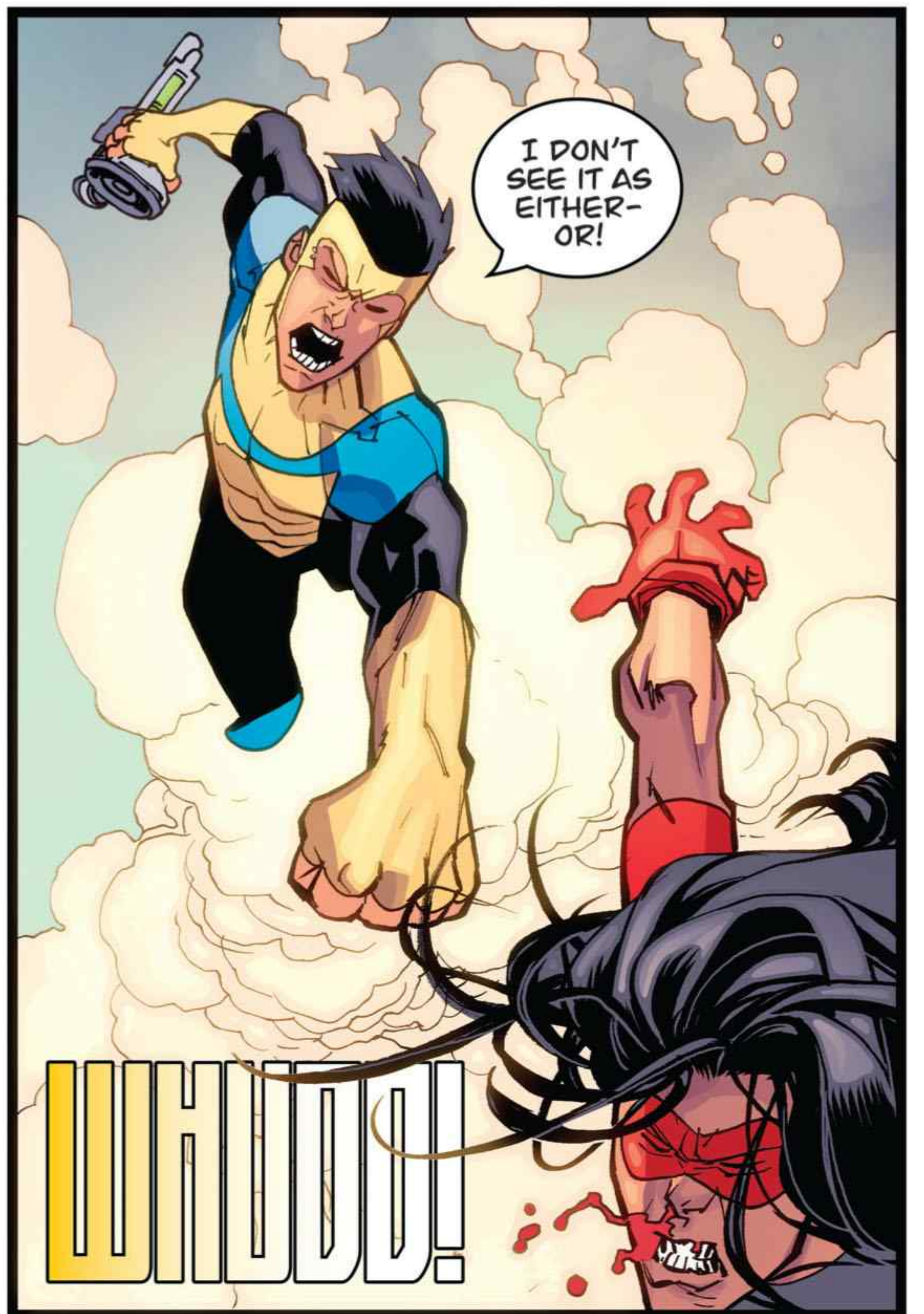
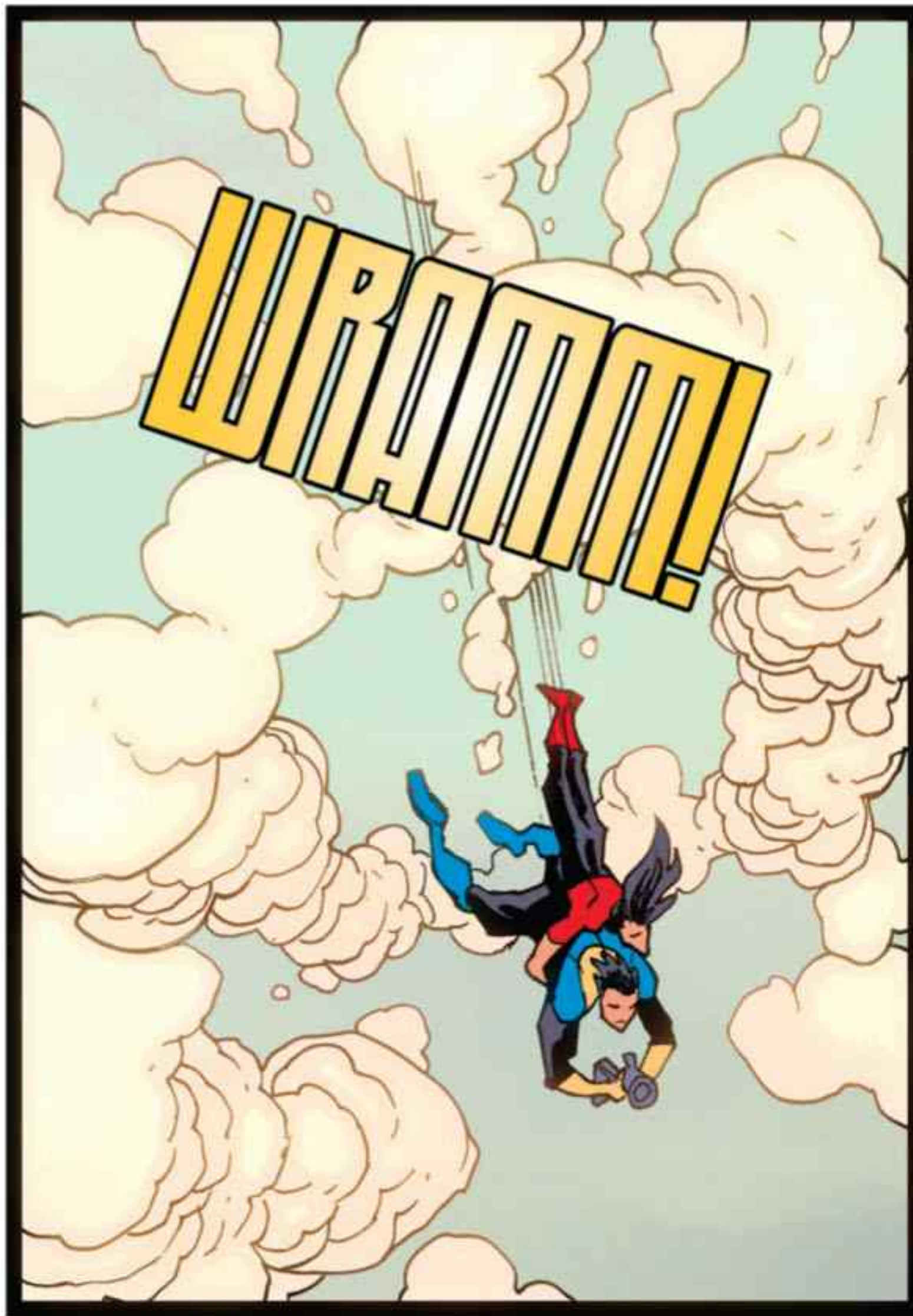


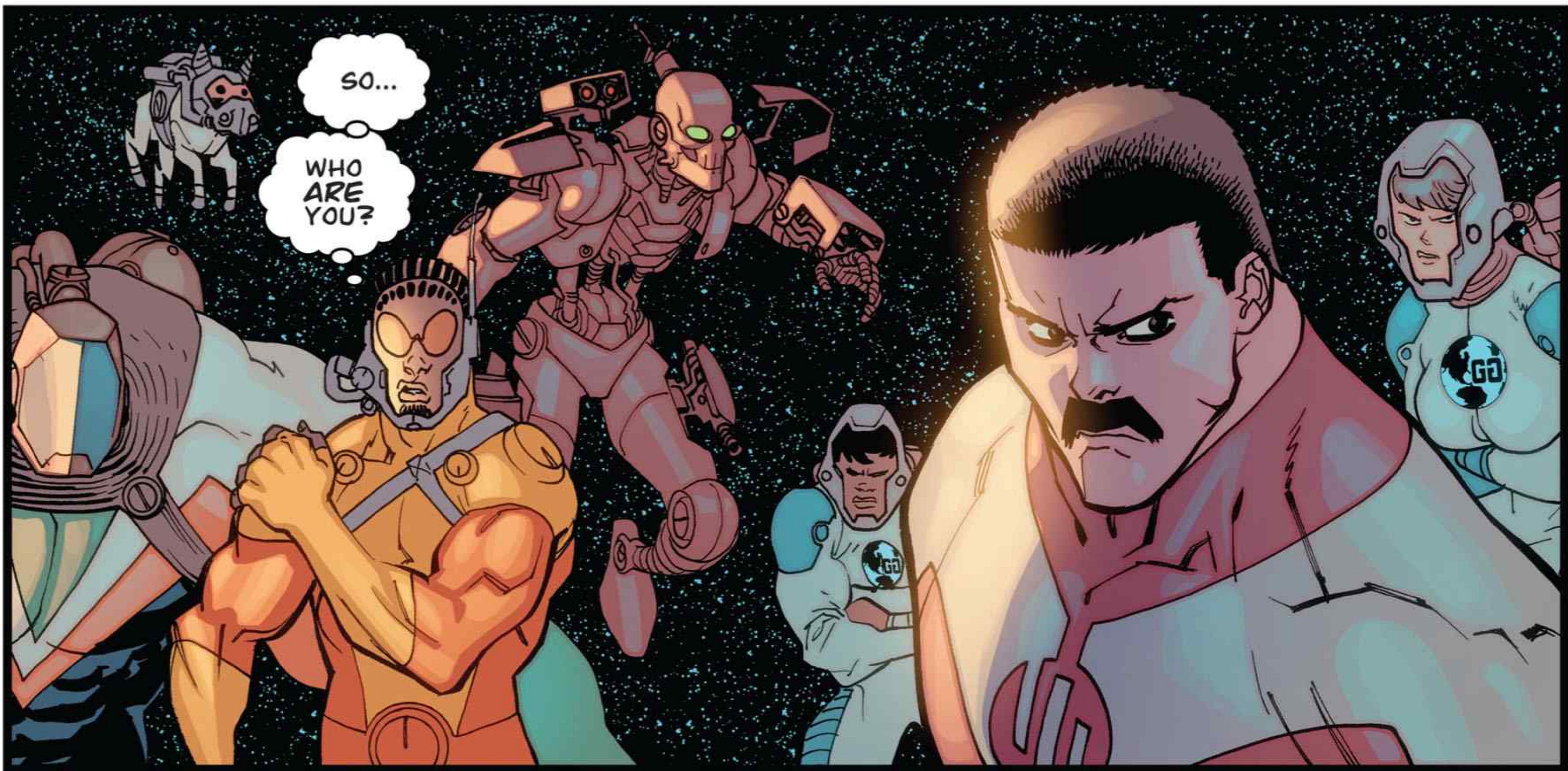
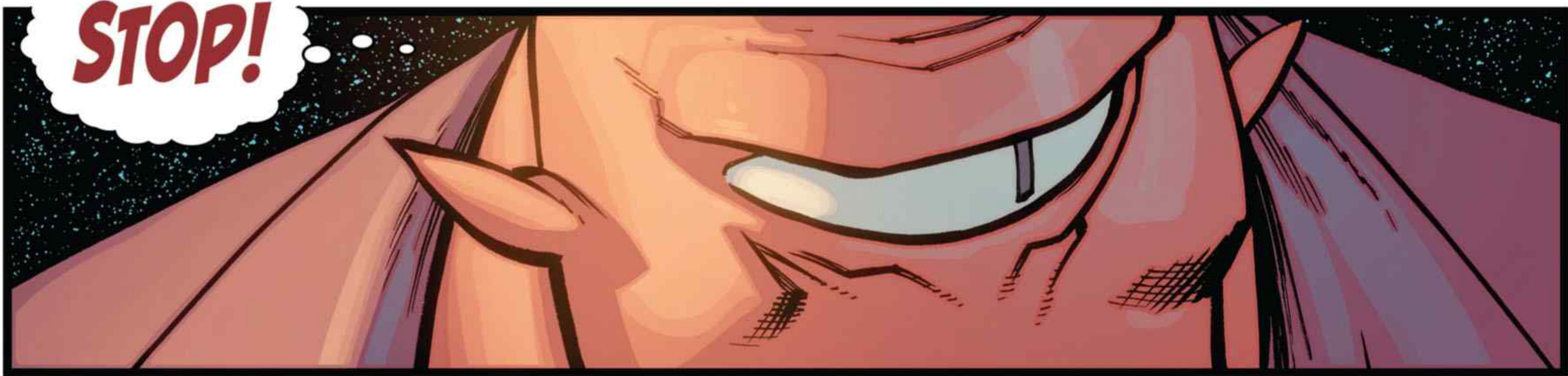
OLIVER?!

DAMN
IT, NO!



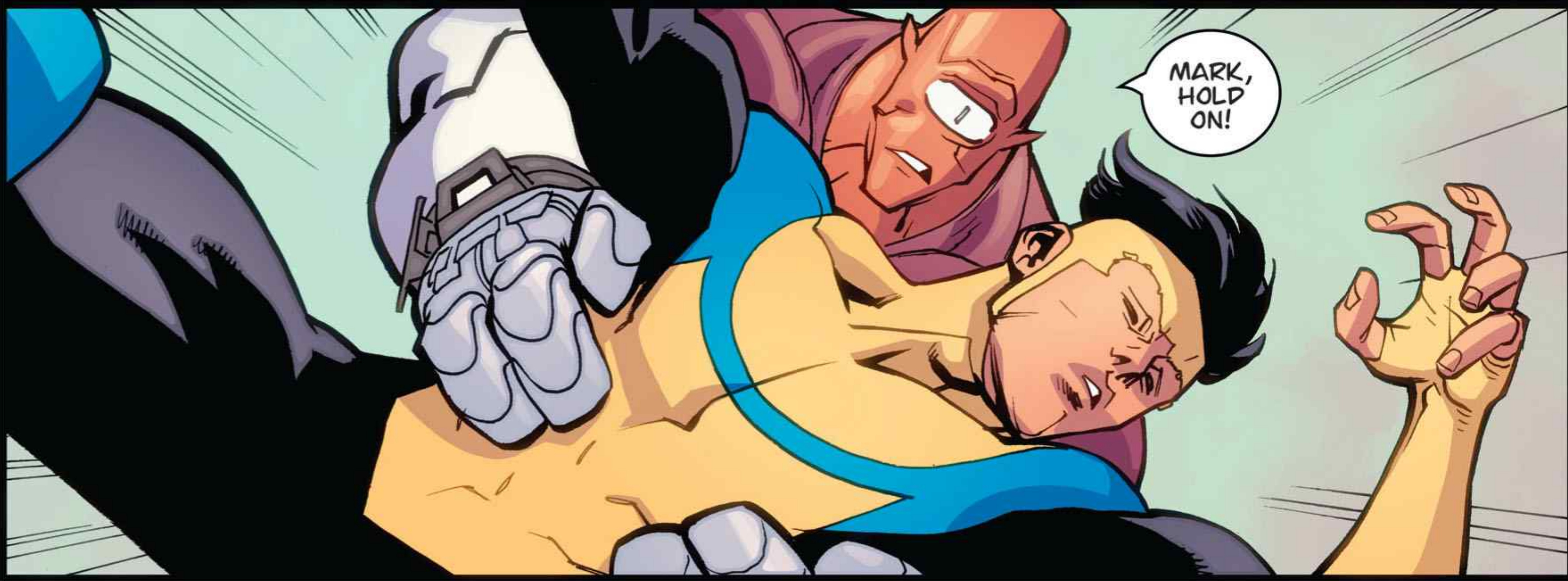














ARE YOU
OKAY?
MARK--CAN
YOU HEAR
ME?!

I'M
FINE--
=>KOFF!<=

BLAST
JUST CAUGHT
ME OFF GUARD--
COULDN'T GET
MY BEARINGS.



THAT DISCHARGE--
WHAT'S THE RANGE?
HOW WILL IT
SPREAD IN THE
ATMOSPHERE?

WHAT'S
THE
SITUATION
HERE?

MARK, DO
YOU FEEL
OKAY?



DON'T BRING
THIS PROBLEM
TO MY PLANET
AND THEN ACT
LIKE YOU
CARE!

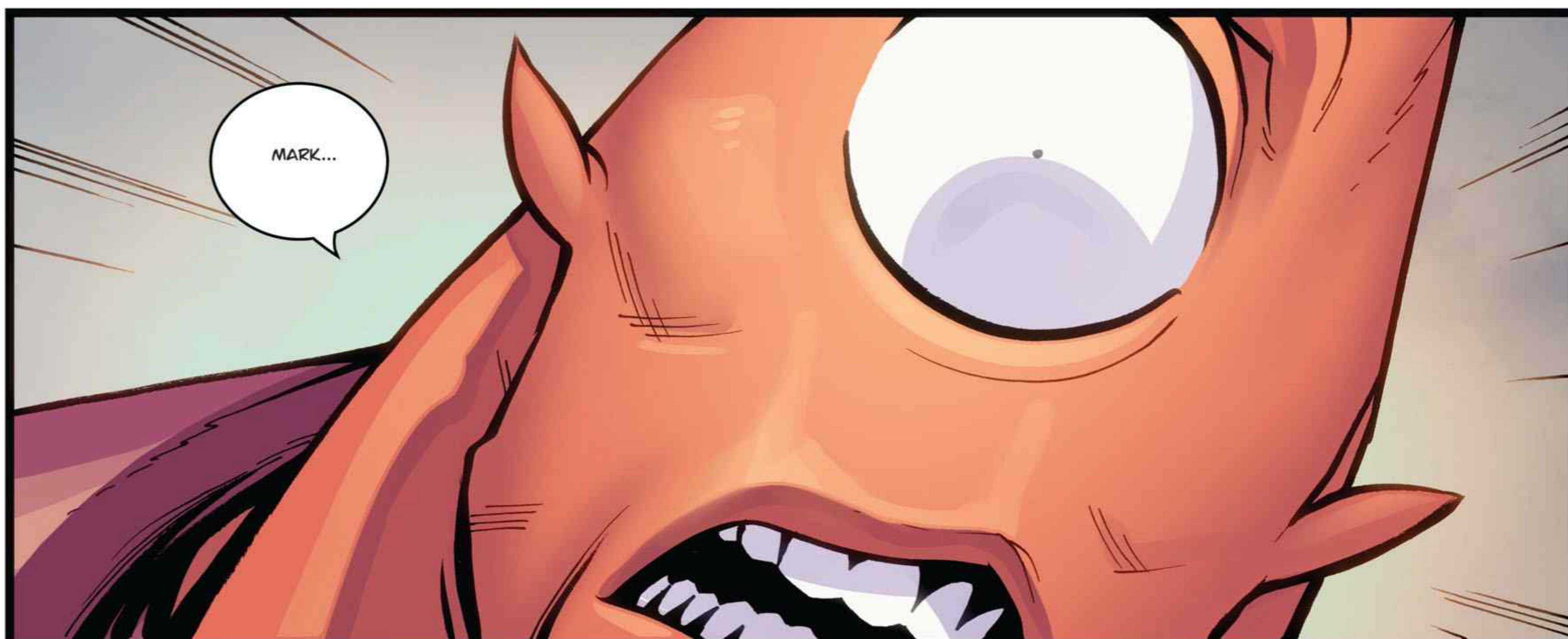
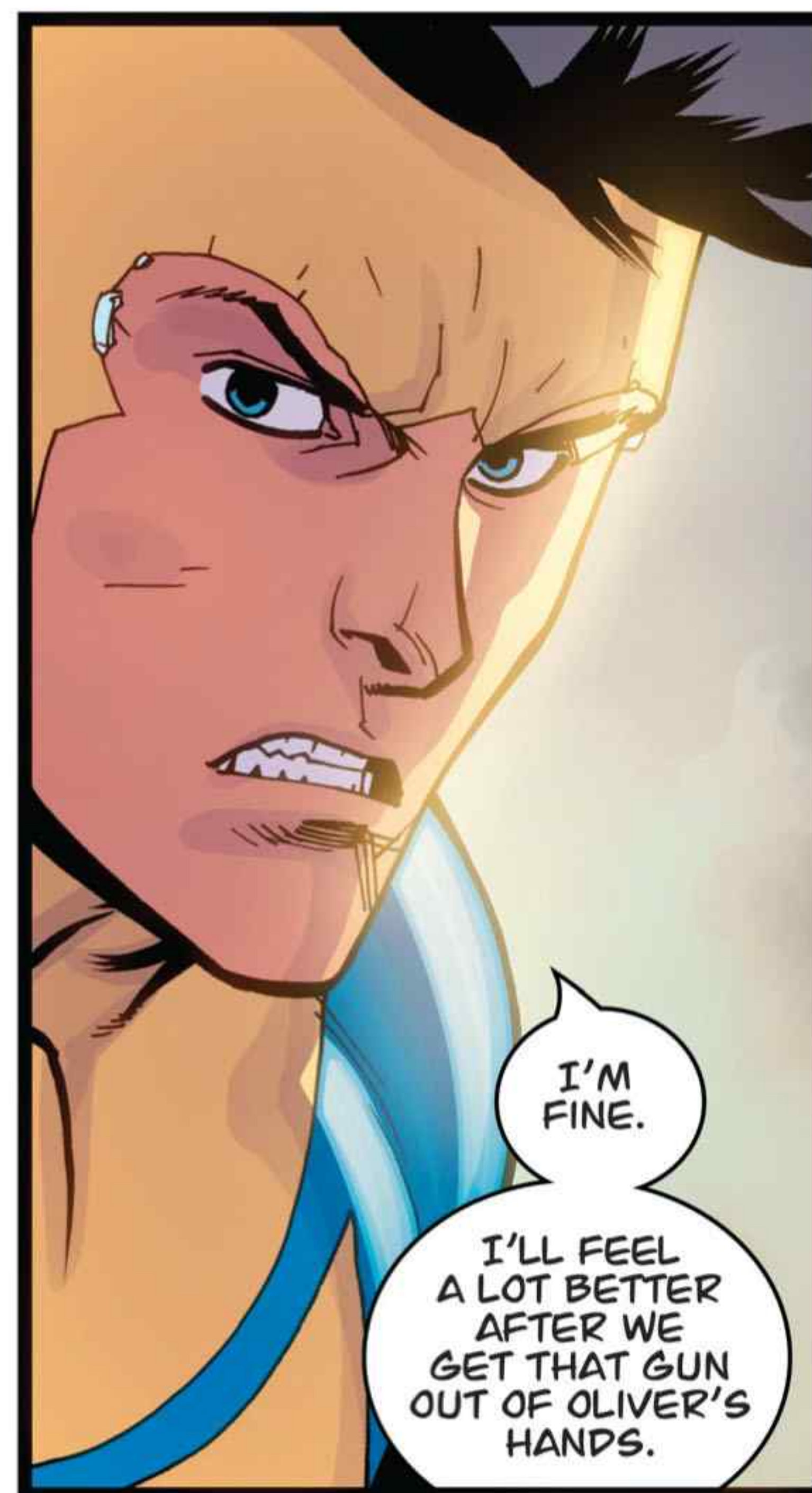
WHAT'S THE
RISK HERE?! IS
THE SCOURGE
VIRUS AIRBORNE
NOW OR
NOT?!



WE'RE OVER AN
OCEAN... AND THE
GUN DISCHARGES
ARE SMALL,
MEANT FOR
INDIVIDUAL
CONTRACTIONS.

THE VIRUS
INCUBATES IN
THE BODY, AND
THEN SPREADS
THROUGH PERSONAL
CONTACT... IT RELIES
ON CARRIERS TO
BUILD ITSELF UP
ENOUGH TO
SPREAD.

THE
PLANET
IS NOT
UNDER
THREAT.





WHAT?

ALLEN,
I'M FINE.

WRITE US @
INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM

INVINCIBLE

Welcome Back, Invincipals!

We're still jamming through 2012 right, with another issue of Invincible three weeks apart. Sure, we're spoiling you, but it'll stop soon enough, when we've gotten back on a monthly schedule.

Enough about us! Let's talk about you for a while... or at the very least let's talk about your thoughts regarding recent action in the book.

Hiya, amazing Kirk-Man!

I'm a 38-year-old french guy and I've been reading comics for most of my life. In fact, I learned to read with them (and a magnetic board my dad bought me). Oddly, this is the first time I write a letter to a comic book, can't figure out why exactly I haven't done it before. But I kinda felt compelled to send this mail to you.

I stumbled upon Invincible a couple weeks ago when I *ahem* downloaded a torrent chockfull of various Image comics. It's a thing I like doing sometimes: scanners like DCP or Minutemen do a great job making people discover new stuff. I can't count all the comics I've known this way. Yeah, I know it's illegal and some say readers of scanned comics are stealers (which I respectfully disagree because it helps spread the word and therefore attracts new readers - that goes for music and mp3s too, take that, music industry!) and I'm sure more than a few people use these scans to shamelessly read for free, but to me it's all about the discovery. Furthermore, it's not always easy to find what I want to read in France, especially imports (I like my American comics in english, a matter of suspension of disbelief: reading a story taking place in NY or DC and seeing the characters talk in french tends to pull me out of the story. Also, sometimes a lot is lost in the translation process).

To all this I say: can a fan not download books internationally via comixology or graphic.ly? While I can get behind sampling something for free (like when iTunes or Starbucks do a song of the week thing), it takes a bit of money for us to promote and produce these books, and it's only after that point that scanners think to put them on-line. You've made your stance, and that's just my two cents.

Look, I get that illegally downloaded comics gets the word out and can lead to more sales. It doesn't mean it's not illegal. You can't disagree with a fact. I see the benefit of it, I like that, that's a good thing, but allowing it to exist just breeds a generation that thinks it's okay, and that leads to everything collapsing. If everyone thinks "someone else" is paying, then no one is. And if I can't make a living writing these comics, I have to go mop floors or spend some time behind the Waffle House to make ends meet, and these comics stop.

I don't want to mop floors. So stealing is wrong, please purchase your entertainment... right? I'm not going to yell at illegal downloaders, and I'm not going to go to war with them, but you have to recognize that it's a dangerous trend that could lead to disastrous results for the future of all entertainment.

But SOPA ain't the answer! (Just getting that in there)

Anyway, Spider-Man's always been my favorite comic book since I was a kid (up until the retcon regarding MJ, that is), so upon reading the first issues of Invincible, I couldn't help but notice the connection. I was hooked and in a matter of days, I swept through all the 85 issues plus #0 and the minis, including the lettercols, and I effin' LLLLOVED IT!!! The mix of heroics and personal life, the numerous intertwining plotlines, the scope of the book from (friendly) neighborhood to galactic epic, the plots that remain dormant for 10 or 20 issues just to suddenly blow in our faces...

Hats off, mister Kirkman, you achieved a tremendous masterpiece of writing! You got yourself a new fan. I haven't been so thrilled by a comic book since 30 Days Of Night and as far as superheroes go, now Invincible is right behind Spidey competing for the title of Fav'rit' Supahero Evah (hard to wipe out a lifetime-long love affair like that, even considering the aforementioned retcon) followed by Batman, the only DC hero I ever liked, in the third place. I was especially floored by #50 to #65: that was one helluva rollercoaster ride! In the words of Scott Pilgrim the movie - which by the way sucked ass full force, whereas the book was really cool: AN EPIC OF EPIC EPICNESS!!!

Okay, Scott Pilgrim references do work in your favor. By the way: if you torrented that movie—thanks for contributing to its box office failure. I'm on a roll of meanness!

I feel a bit ashamed of having read the whole shebang without paying for it, though it's not really different from a friend lending me his TPBs, is it? None of my friends are into superhero comics anyway and I wasn't familiar with the Image line, so I probably never would have heard of Invincible if I hadn't DL'd that torrent in the first place. But anyway, from now on I'm buying. Promise. I'm even gonna look for the TPBs published up to this point, so see? No Rob robbed! I'm not exactly keen on stealing from artists I like. Also, a computer screen will never compare to a good old printed book.

Xo thanks!

Alright, I still have MANY more things to say, but I'm gonna end this mail before it turns to a novel - have to leave some room for the other penvincipals (assuming this letter makes it to the page, heh), right? I'll just keep the leftovers in the oven 'til next time. So, on to some numbered questions/wishes:

1) I was referring to you as an artist earlier, and I've been wondering: why is it that in America, the graphic team on a comic book is collectively called "artists?" I mean writers are artists too, aren't they? As are musicians, actors, sculptors, dancers, etc...

People are all about labels here, that's why.

YEAH!

2) One thing I've noticed: back in the days of Marvel Team-Up and Ant-Man, you seemed absolutely thrilled to get to work for Marvel. Then when you became an Image partner, you suddenly made a 180 and it was like you didn't want to have anything to do with them anymore, you seemed to hold some sort of grudge against them. What happened? Did you have a fight with the Marvel execs or something? Or is it simply, you being a partner and all, that you had to become contractually Image-exclusive?

Robert can elaborate on this, but from my understanding: if you're going to be the face of creator-owned comics, your MO should be creator-owned comics, amirite?

I didn't enjoy my time at Marvel because I liked to be in control of my work, how it's presented, who works with me, how it's marketed, all that. I enjoyed individual books, for the most part, but the overall experience left much to be desired. Creator-owned comics is a more viable long-term career choice, and while I was at Marvel, other creators thought I did Marvel work to pay the bills and creator-owned stuff for fun. That's a horrible misconception. I was making more money from creator-owned in my second year at Marvel, long before things REALLY took off, and long before a certain TV show was made. So I decided to take a stand, be the guy that only does creator-owned stuff... and succeeds, and hopefully, eventually, other people would follow. Because life is much better now... and I want as many people as possible to share in my happiness, and I want to read more awesome creator-owned books.

3) About Eve: her FATHER's name is Adam, how creepy is that? Is there a subtext about incest here and is this why her mother insists on her first name being Samantha, or was it just a coincidence that never occurred to you? Knowing how thoroughly you usually plan stuff, I suspect there's something quite yucky here, with her dad talking to Mark about her (lack of) virginity and all...

EGads, I hope not! First abortion, next: incest? Robert's got a knack for melodrama, but I don't know man...

I honestly never made the connection. A bit of a goof on my part. I think I chose Adam because it kind of sounds like Atom. But... the whole Adam/Eve connection is weird. I can't tell you how little effort I put into coming up with normal names for characters. It's a little unnerving when I think about it. That's why there's tons of repeated names in Walking Dead. I'm like "Have I used Bruce yet? Bruce--yeah--this guy is Bruce!"

I'll try harder from now on.

4) We need more Green Ghost barfing! That scene in #7 was delightfully gross, and I absolutely loved how he was on the verge of throwing up after having to swallow the amulet right back. Please, let us enjoy a new Green Ghost.

Noted!

I've been meaning to get to that since issue 7. I'd love to have another Green Ghost, and even had plans for it, but never got around to it. I think I've mentioned it in a letters column before.

5) After the way Mark and Amber broke up, I had assumed they'd remain close friends, but she seems to have vanished from the book after the punch-in-the-face incident, except for the short glimpse of her and Gary glued to the TV during the fight against Conquest. Will she ever return in Mark's life? As a friend, I mean, not a lover. I miss her. More than that, I think Mark himself needs a circle of normal, grounded friends, considering how crazy his life has become for quite a while now. Sure, he still has William and Rick, but William's not exactly a grounded person and Rick... well, he's not fully human anymore and he's had his share of personal hell that I'm sure he's still coping with.

I can guarantee that we haven't seen the last of Amber. I cannot guarantee when.

6) Whatever happened to the London "sky god sect" running gag? That was hilarious and wasn't even remotely getting old.

RK?

It's coming...

7) How come Nolan and Allen's uniforms bear the C.O.P. logo in latin alphabet? It should be written in a weird alien language. A point also valid for every alien being encountered by humans: how come each and every one of them (except Octoboss - BTW, his way of speaking was fun and I'd like to see him again some time) seems to speak a perfectly flawless english?

They were designed knowing that our alphabet is cooler? I really do think that coolness factor had a lot to do with it.

My thinking is that our alphabet is somewhat alien in origin... same with the English language. Allen touched on this in issue 5, I believe. Mark asked "how are you speaking English?" and Allen replied "What's English?"

Well that's it for now. I hope Invincible will stick around as long as ol' Webhead. Looking forward to #500!

Keep on rockin'!
Guillaume Perez

PS: A word for Abigail from the lettercol in #68: "Superheroines that are normal." Really?! What exactly IS a "normal" superheroine?

Normal would mean: fuller-figured, and displayed on the cover (that's tracking back to an older letter saying that we wouldn't put Eve on a cover in her current state).

If a movie ever ever happens...

BRYAN CRANSTON FOR NOLAN. The thought of it makes me so happy I could pee. That is all.

Daniel Walker

Not entirely with you on this one. He's one of the best actors ever, but c'mon: Walter White as the ultimate Viltrumite?

I could see it...

#Numbers! (Can we do hash tagging too? Bah, too late...)

My therapist made me stop when I started using hand gestures to indicate I was hash tagging.

1. Loved issues 85 and 86 with the great Invincible OG Cory Walshizzle, but I have one problem with Kirkman. Why don't Allen and C.O.P get a human and test the virus on it first, to see how it affects us? Please don't go on further on the storyline without adresing this! You really miss that one didn't you?

Humans are hard to come by that far in space.

And... they're trying to kill Viltrumites, they know it does that. You don't test a weapon on the collateral damage to make sure there will be damage. No time!

2. Another bone to pick with Robert, WTH happened man? There once was a time when every comic book you made had its own flavor, but now you write two books with a hero and a partner SuperDinosaur (Mark/Dinosaurus-Derek/SD) What's next, Rick Grimes and his pet velociraptor?

That is one way to deal with the undead pandemic... It's only in two books! Well, would it be spoiling too much to say that The Infinite may or may not be a third book with a dinosaur partner in crime? If I could still hash tag, I'd type #timetravel #obvi

3. If I have a baby someday, can I call him Mark Grayson? (I plan to do that even if it's a girl)

Fine by me.

Seconded.

4. How much tax-payer money is going towards Cecil special bathtub?

Let's just say we're not in deficit for nothin'.

5. Did Eve get an abortion like a normal woman or did she use her powers? #whynoadoption #shesadoptedherself

shudder She went traditional. As for adoption, I think she'd have a lot of splainin' to do if down the line her baby ended up with super powers in Randomtown, Illinois.

6. Before Nolan dies #spoileralert, can he have his last conversation with our great friend the superhero tailor/outfiter?

Well, let's see how he gets out of his current pickle before we divulge the ifs and the whens of his demise.

13 issues in 12 months, Make Mine Edited By Sina, Colored by John, Lettered by Rus, Drawn by Ryan, Written by Kirkman! #toolong #notgonnawork

Gabriel Diaz

We're trying! Thanks for the vote of confidence!

Penvincipals-

Long-time (reader) first-time (letter-writer) and all that (e.g., feel free to assume I enjoy your product).

It probably takes a long-time reader to appreciate what a good issue #86 was. For example, first-time readers would miss much in Debbie's response to Nolan at the end of the issue. Given what he has put her through, the possibility of him going bad again is pretty much her worst fears made manifest.

But what I enjoyed most was the moral quandary raised and the various characters' reactions to them. Leadership seems to weigh heavily on Allen, and fear of what might happen to those under his care is pushing to do something he probably would have once never considered. Note how he moved his fight with Nolan out of a crowded building, reminding us that he is driven by protecting innocents. Nolan has experience with compromising your principles on a micro level for the "greater (Viltrumite) good," and has the regrets that come with that. Amazing how he has changed from the guy who betrayed the Guardians to the voice of reason that argues risking a whole species to stop what his race MIGHT do is not worth it. His speech about how the people of Earth changed him, and how they might do the same for his fellow Viltrumites, suggests he's carrying a lot of baggage for his actions against both. The moment he grabs Oliver shows exactly how many regrets that guy has. I wonder if Invincible isn't Nolan's story nearly as much as Mark's.

And Oliver. I've swung back and forth between disliking that him and seeing potential in him. I'm surprised it didn't give Allen pause when Oliver "agreed" with Allen, but for different reasons (i.e., Earth people deserve to die, too). I think Mr. Kirkman could give a certain film maker tips on how likable "hero" might one day become a villain. Care only about the people closest to you, carry a lot of anger, and see killing as both not a big deal and expedient at times. Oliver seems to be on a nice, slow boil to one day be Mark's greatest adversary.

Of course, I could be wrong, as Mark has been making some "ends justify the means" choices himself lately. He just released a villain who believed killing a whole city was worth the "greater good." It's great for the story that he won't be standing completely on the moral high ground when Allen comes calling. I smell Mark making a mistake and learning a hard lesson, Oliver becoming a bad guy, and a noble sacrifice from Nolan. But you all do tend to manage to surprise. It's why #87 will be my first read next month.

Robert's doing a grand slam job playing with all the themes you mentioned in this book, Super Dinosaur, and The Walking Dead. No spoilers, but all heroes are faced with hard choices to make: it's what makes them both heroes and compelling characters to follow.

Hope I'm not reading too much into things here. For example, Dinosaurus could be an allegory for the dangers of apathy (given it turns you into a monster). Then again, he may have just been there to set up a joke about how boring Mark's life can be. I've often wondered if readers finding more in a story than the author may have originally intended is the sign of weak writing or masterful. Maybe it just shows that some of us spend too much of our time with our noses buried in a funny book.

You're getting a bit LIT 101 on us, to be sure, but it's welcome! Robert's the first to admit what his intentions are when creating something, and even if you're on a separate page than him, it's the experiences we carry that inform what we're creating and reading.

To restore my comic-geek cred, let me end with what a great beat-down Allen delivered. In space, no less. Nice work, Cory. And "Oh, shut up! Viltrumites have balls -- cry baby!" may be the 2011 Invincible quote of the year.

That was a good one!

Dome a favor. I'm thrilled with your on-time shipment approach. Could you also have the Image Science Department (ISD) investigate time-travel technology that might enable something even better (say, "pre-time" shipment)? If so, I'd greatly appreciate it if you could get me issue 87 yesterday.

Many thanks- Jason Blackwell

Maybe if you spent less time over analyzing the comic, you'd figure out a way to do pre-time shipment yourself, you liberal arts hippie!

Hey Robert.

First of all I want to get the fanboying out of the way; you're a damn fine writer! TWD and Invincible are the first comics I've followed as they're being produced. I got into comics recently and all my favorites had concluded before I'd ever heard of them. So it's awesome to be part of this experience with you, your team and all the fans on the letters column. I wish the other books I've started to read indulged their fans with a letters column. It's great to see the positive and negative opinions of others, and also seeing fan reactions and theories to big events. There are a few things I wouldn't have noticed if I hadn't read it in the mail. I guess you could just go to a message board for that but it's more personal with the creators involved.

Agreed! Plus, good conversations get derailed FAST on message boards by pictures of people's cats.

I love cat pictures!

Anyway, with that said I want to get on to my first ever complaint about one of your books. (Why do you think I'm writing in? I know you don't want stuff that's full of just praise. I got your back Kirkman!) I know it's been a WHILE since the costume change to say the least but I'm catching up after lagging behind and I miss the yellow. I usually don't like yellow on costumes but the blue, yellow and black combo with the simplicity of the costume fucking SUNG, MAN! I'm not saying the blue and black is bad, it's got its charm. But I feel like it's a bit bland and generic. In a sea of dark-caped vigilantes clamoring for attention Mark's bit of yellow seemed to lend him a bit of individuality. I feel like he's less memorable this way. Like a kid could look at him, see the dark blue and black and go "hurrrdurp, is that Batman daddy?" Now of course, yellow or no yellow I'll slap that kid silly. (I kid, I kid.) But that bit of yellow makes him quite obviously Invincible. To me anyway.

So that's my ramble about a small and outdated issue. But I feel strongly about my superhero costumes, damn it! Naw, not really. But I do think you should have stuck with the yellow. I'll keep reading no matter what you do of course, 'cause Invincible addresses all the problems I've experienced when trying to read superhero comics and FIXES them. So you keep it up. Put him in clown shoes and a wet suit if you feel the need. Just don't change the always evolving and gripping storylines!

Okay, it's strange that you send this in after Mark not only gets back into his yellow costume, but even gets that costume tweaked. I'm a big fan of the costume argument (especially in favor of the current yellow costume), so I allow this outdated letter to run.

PS. You spoiled the next Big Death in the TWD column and it broke my heart. (In fact he may already be dead since I haven't read the latest issue yet): (YOU ALREADY TOOK DALE AWAY FROM ME! HOW COULD YOU! Heh. Keep me on the edge of my seat man. Love it!

From Kirkmaniac number 8575876 or something :D

If you're referring to what I think you're referring to- spoiler alert: WE WERE KIDDING!

Messieurs Kirkman, Otley, Walker etc.

I was so happy to've received my Science Dog super size. I love the 'bande dessinée' presentation, and I was very eager to open it up and take a second gander at a story that I read thru Invincible, bought the two issue mini series, and loved every bit of it. I usually have little patience for time travel narratives, but Science Dog is currently my favourite, more than Terminator, Doctor Who..., I hate time paradoxes, they are cheezy and lame when used in science fiction stories, but you brought the theme somewhere else (yet again).

Such a great book, right? EVERYONE BUY IT.

Please.

Why aren't FCO's colours in the book? or rather WHY AREN'T FCO'S COLOURS IN THE BOOK !?! I especially loved the way his colours and Mr. Walker's style blended, it was something marvelous. I like Dave Stewart's colours (HELLBOY!), that's not the point. The point that his style is different (obviously), and it reacts differently with Cory's art, he renders his colours differently. I wasn't expecting this curveball, and it enticed me to write to you for the first time today, because today is the first time that I feel that my opinion could be heard by you, seeing as for the past 4 and a half years that I've been into comics (the first comic I ever pulled off the rack was an issue of Irredeemable Ant-Man), I've been hooked on all of your work, I read the issues and collect the trades and I have had ABSOLUTELY nothing to say except: thank you!

We aimed for consistency in the hardcover edition. Before, there was something like four colorists throughout the span of the Science Dog stories (dating back to Invincible #25). If we'd have kept them the same, it would have made reading the book a bit inconsistent for you.

You are a gift, and I am astounded that what we are living right now is 'early Kirkman'. WHOOT! WHOOT! numbered bullet points!!

1. I forget if this was brought up before. When Mark was in a coma after Conquest impaled him, he was growing facial hair, yet his upper lip was baby arse smooth. wouldn't the viltrumite DNA bring the moustache to the next level?

Oliver was grooming it for him.

2. Whatever happened to that British guy who seemed just about ready to start his cult, fully accessorized with garbage bag and grad cap?

RK?

Eventually, I'll get to it.

3. Super Dinosaur is wicked Awesome, your most original idea in your career so far, and I have equal admiration for Jason Howard's contribution, his design is awesome cool, and he's just getting started, what a privilege to witness his progression in the industry! I wish SD existed when I was 9 years old. It would have fundamentally changed me. Probably.

Thanks! Here's hoping we get a million more kids hooked on reading comics because of SD!

4. I'm going to need my fix soon, seeing as I've gone without Rex Splode for what seems like years to me.

I can't help you with that.

5. Those guys with the Star Trek archetypes are very cool. Think of writing a mini-series someday? I'd buy it.

Not your worst request. Will it happen? I can't say :)

Probably not. I'm not looking to get SUED!

I guess this can be it for now, this was nice, I might do it again.

Thank you for inspiring me, Patrick Montréal, Québec

Please continue writing in! We always love feedback and an excess of compliments.

Thanks again for the mail. If I didn't say it enough back then: thanks Cory for contributing to the book (I have #86, page 15 on my wall as I type this). Please come back again in February for more twists and turns! Boy howdy, are you gonna be pleased.

Also: If you are in the Bay Area, please come to IMAGE EXPO! February 24-26, Oakland Convention Center. Not only will Robert, Ryan and I be there, so will dozens of your favorite Image creators and Skybound booth babes! No joke!

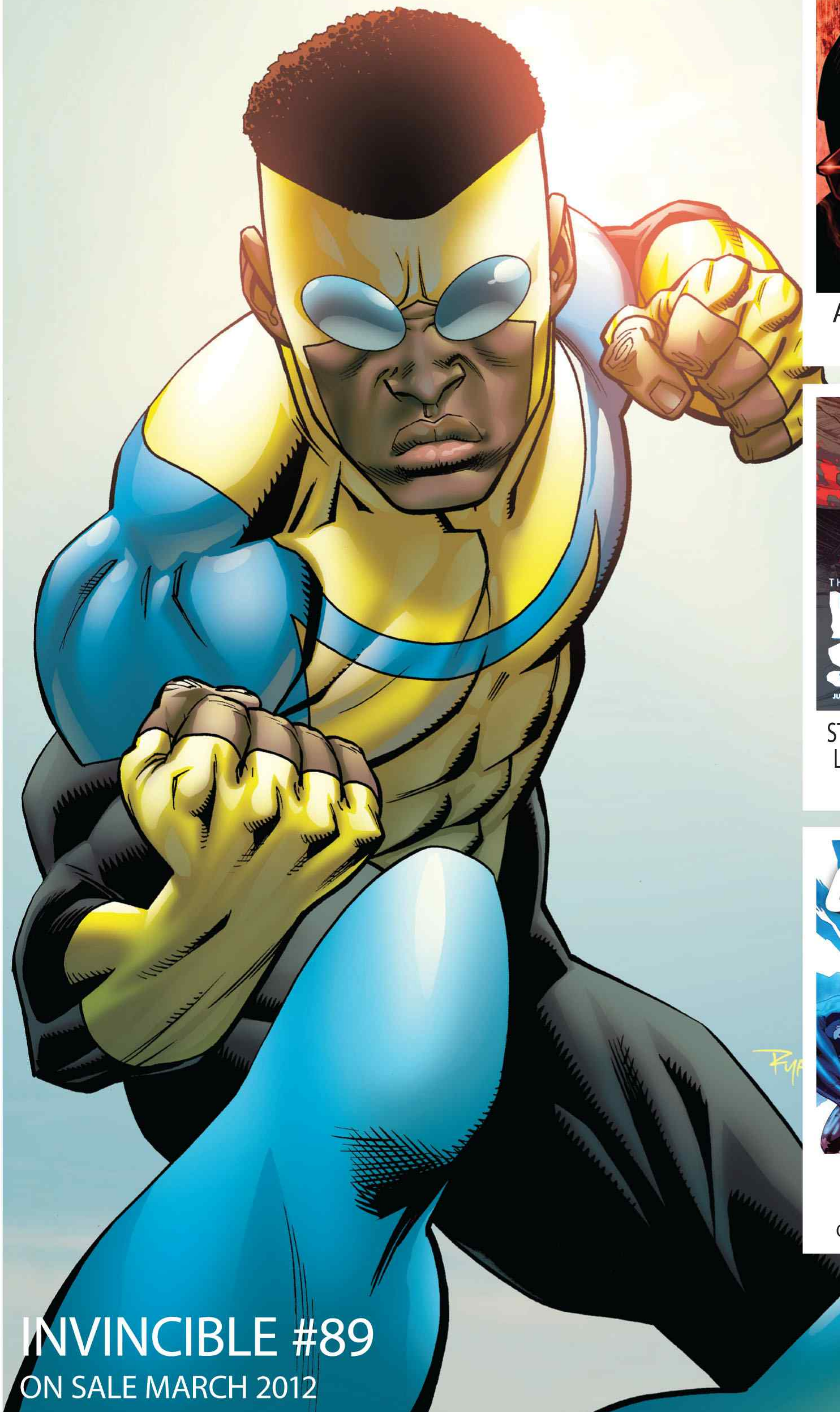
Best,

-Sina Grace

I'll see you there!!

-Robert Kirkman

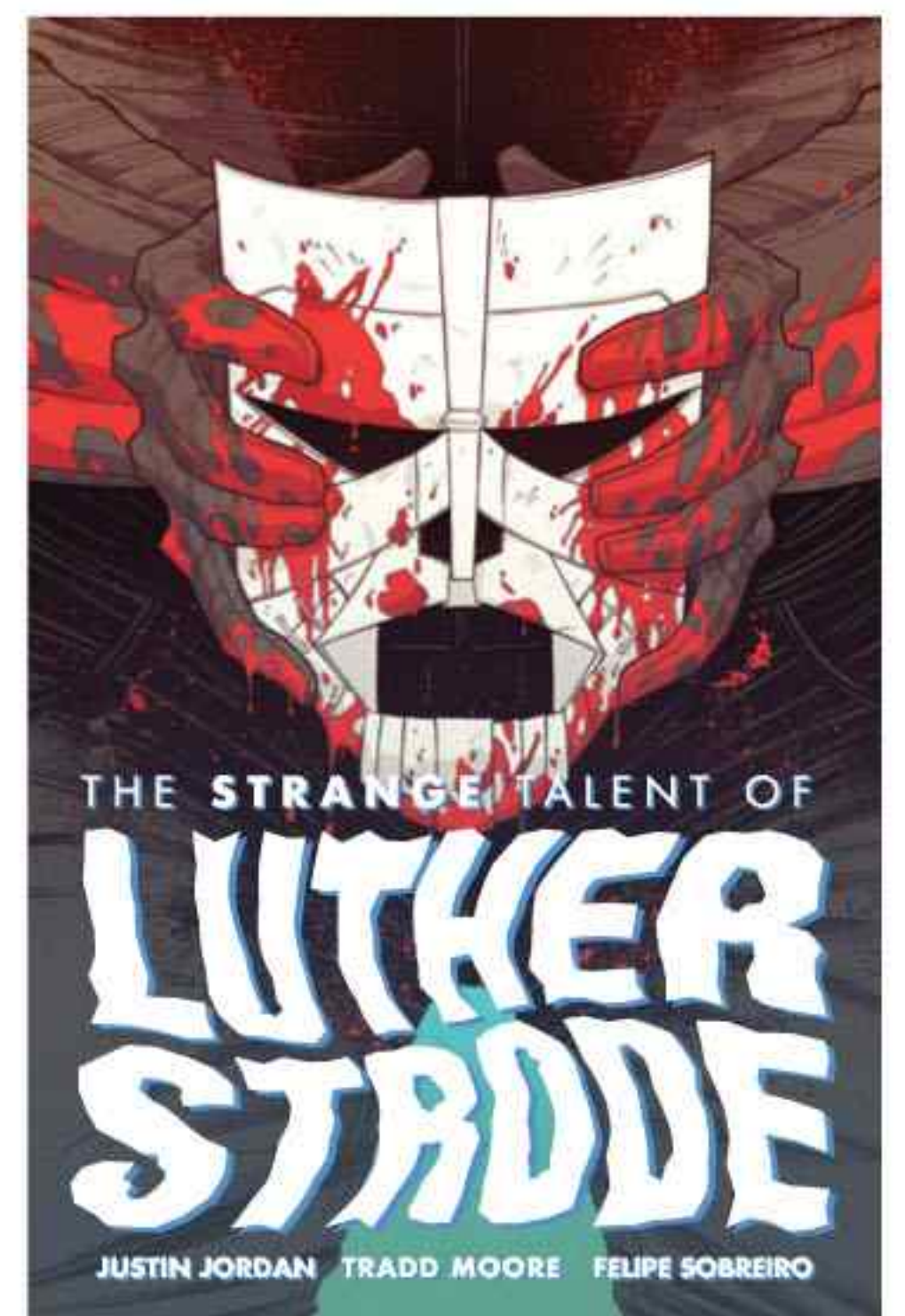
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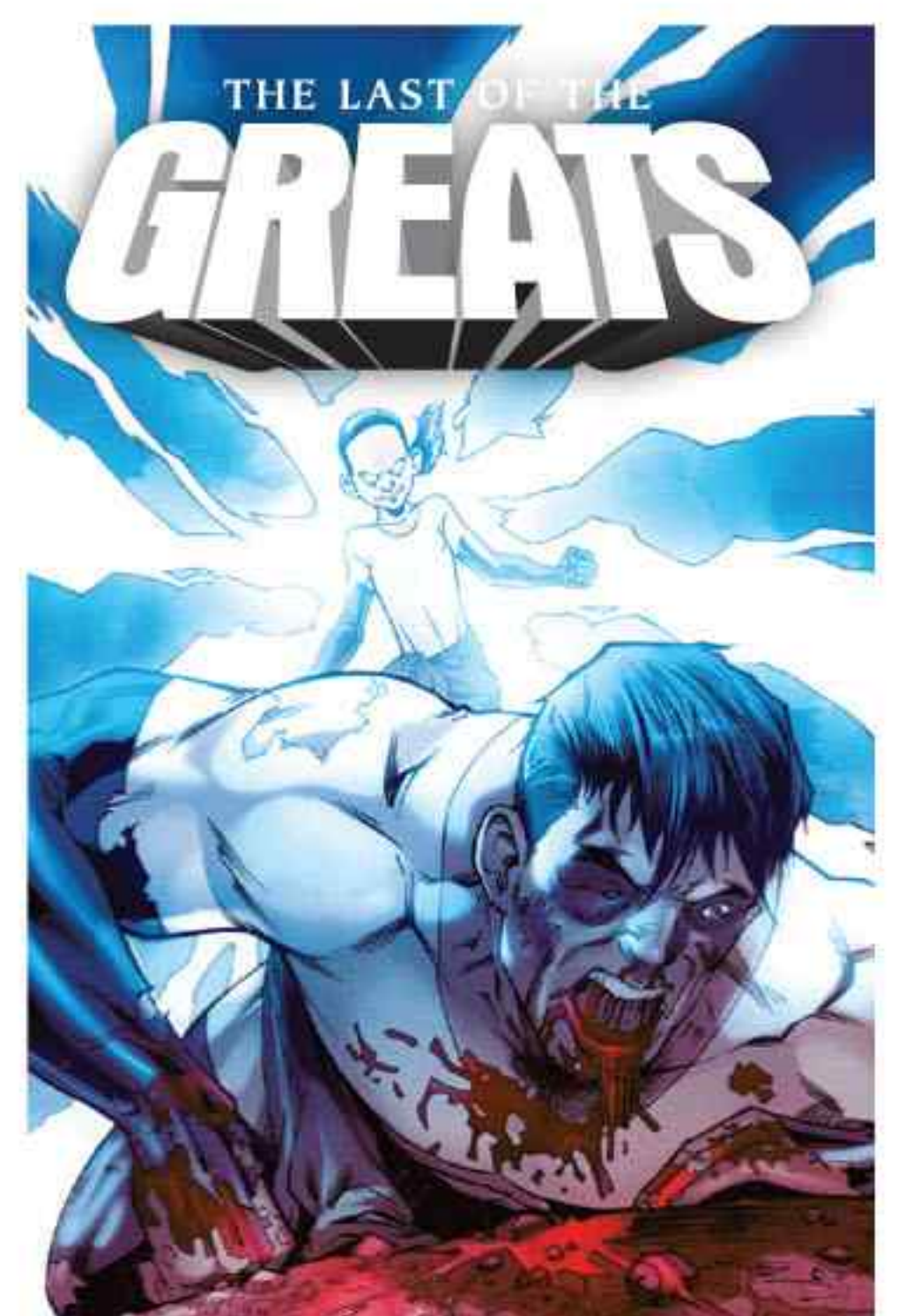
INVINCIBLE #89
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ALPHA GIRL #1
ON SALE NOW



**STRANGE TALENT OF
LUTHER STRODE #5**
ON SALE NOW



**LAST OF THE
GREATS #5**
ON SALE NEXT WEEK



Question of the Month

"In general: the generation raised on Image Comics coming into their own and being hugely successful for it. In specific: Saga, Corto Maltese in English and Sharknife ZZ."

Joe Keatinge
GLORY, HELL YEAR

"WHAT DO YOU LOOK FORWARD TO THE MOST FOR COMICS IN 2012?"

"Other than seeing No Place Like Home on the same shelves as creators I've always admired, getting excited about creator owned titles again is what I look forward to the most from comics in 2012."

Angelo Tiroto
NO PLACE LIKE HOME

"I'm mostly just looking forward to watching the landscape change this year. It feels like a year of change, and I hope smart retailers and publishers push that change in the right direction."

Ed Brubaker
FATFLE

"I love seeing all of the off beat comics getting made. Seeing weird titles take off totally stokes me. I'm also addicted to Fearless Dawn and she's going to space in 2012!"

Jeff Roenning
ALPHA GIRL

"All of the things that are coming from Image that no one has heard about yet."

Robert Kirkman
THE WALKING DEAD, INVINCIBLE, THIEF OF THIEVES

FEBRUARY 2012

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THE THIRD DEGREE ROSS CAMPBELL

Ross Campbell currently lives in Rochester, New York. He likes cats, Tifa Lockhart, tea, alien terror, and Vin Diesel. He hates frogs, sunny weather, and traveling. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/rosscampbell1 (three L's!). Comics by Ross include *Wet Moon* volumes 1-6 (Oni Press), *Shadoweyes* and *Shadoweyes In Love* (SLG, read online at shadoweyes.net!), *Mountain Girl* (self-published), *GLORY* (written by Joe Keatinge, Image Comics/Extreme Studios), *The Abandoned* (Tokyopop), *Water Baby* (DC/Minx), *Spooked* (written by Antony Johnston, Oni), and various short comics *Fraggle Rock*, *Hack/Slash*, and *Vertigo's House of Mystery*.

What are you working on right now?

I just finished up volume 6 of my *Wet Moon* series for Oni Press, I'm working with Joe Keatinge on the new *GLORY* series, I'm writing volume 3 of my teen antihero vigilante story *Shadoweyes*, and currently I'm working on the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Leonardo* one-shot issue for IDW. Whew!

What's the best part of your job?

Getting to work while wearing pajamas.

What's the worst part of your job?

The frequent lack of money, the fear of a future where I might end up penniless and die on the streets, and being nitpicked when drawing a work-for-hire project for somebody else since it always seems like they don't like the ideas I'm most passionate about. Also the pitch/proposal process is pretty soul-crushing.

How did you first discover comics?

I think my first comic exposure was *Calvin & Hobbes* in the newspaper, and then the old *Kevin Eastman & Peter Laird Ninja Turtles* comics followed by *Spawn*, *Sleepwalker*, and *WildCATs* are what really got me interested.

If you weren't working in comics, what would you be doing?

I have no idea. I don't really have any other skills but maybe something involving writing. Or working at a bakery or as a dishwasher.

What's the strangest thing a fan has ever said to you?

"Can I come visit you and stay at your house?"

Who is the biggest influence on your work?

Probably my dad was. But as for influences on my writing... Ross Macdonald, Raymond Chandler, Richard Stark, Patricia Highsmith, Milan Kundera, Alan Moore, and Johnny Craig.

What are you most likely to complain to an editor about?

Probably character design stuff. Once I get something in my head, I will almost always put up a fight if an editor makes suggestions about how a character looks.

Who is the biggest influence on your work?

Kevin Eastman, Peter Laird, HR Giger, Hayao Miyazaki, and the movie *Alien*.

What is the single work of which you're most proud?

Either *Shadoweyes In Love* or *Wet Moon* volume 6.

Own up to one of your guilty pleasures.

I don't believe in guilty pleasures, I don't feel ashamed about anything I like, but something that fits the definition might be a lot of generally-considered-cheesy music I like, like Enya, Erasure, and Seal.

What was the last comic book you bought?

The *Summer Of Love* by Debbie Drechsler and the *TMNT: Michelangelo* one-shot issue by Brian Lynch and Andy Kuhn.

Who would play you in a movie about your life?

Alan Ruck.

Pick three things you couldn't live without.

Tea, pajamas, and winter.

What's the strangest thing you have in your house?

A life-size puppet of the mutant killer baby from the movie *It's Alive*.

When was the last time you laughed out loud?

A lot of my favorite band *Bella Morte* as usual, *The Rain Within*, *The Protomen*, *O'so Krispie*, *Erasure*, *Eternia*, *Faye Wong*, *Active Child*, *The Birthday Massacre*, *Ensileñce*, and *Blackguard*.

What music are you listening to these days?

A lot of my favorite band *Bella Morte* as usual, *The Rain Within*, *The Protomen*, *O'so Krispie*, *Erasure*, *Eternia*, *Faye Wong*, *Active Child*, *The Birthday Massacre*, *Ensileñce*, and *Blackguard*.

What is your favorite film of all time?

Alien.

Who is your best friend?

Zach Smith, who I've been friends with since kindergarten. He works in bio-optics.

What is the worst advice you've ever received?

"You should get on Facebook!"

When was the last time you were truly frightened?

Hmm, I don't know... I lead a pretty ho-hum life, I guess, but I was pretty freaked out when a bat flew into my apartment last year and was dive-bombing me and stuff. Maybe not *TRULY FRIGHTENED*, but it was pretty frazzling at the time. Bats seem cute until they're attacking you in your home. There was also a time several years ago when a homeless man pushed his way into my apartment when I opened the door in the middle of the night in a tired half-asleep stupor. I thought he was going to kill me.

Name someone you really admire and explain why.

Washington Post advice columnist Carolyn Hax, because she's always so on point. She's got her sh*t together.

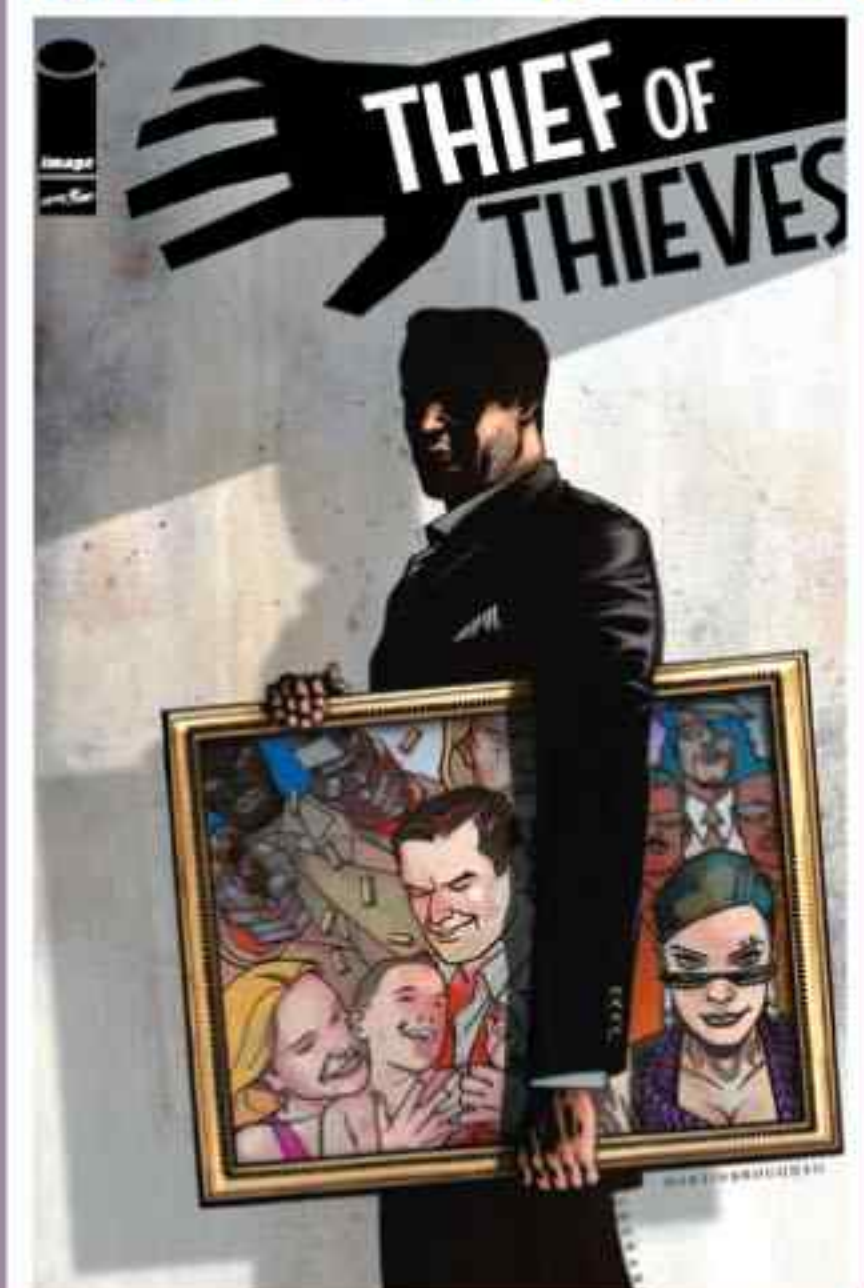
What would you like to see happen in comics in the next 12 months?

The masses caring about American comics again and everything selling millions of copies.

What the world needs now is...

Less suffering.

THIEF OF THIEVES #1



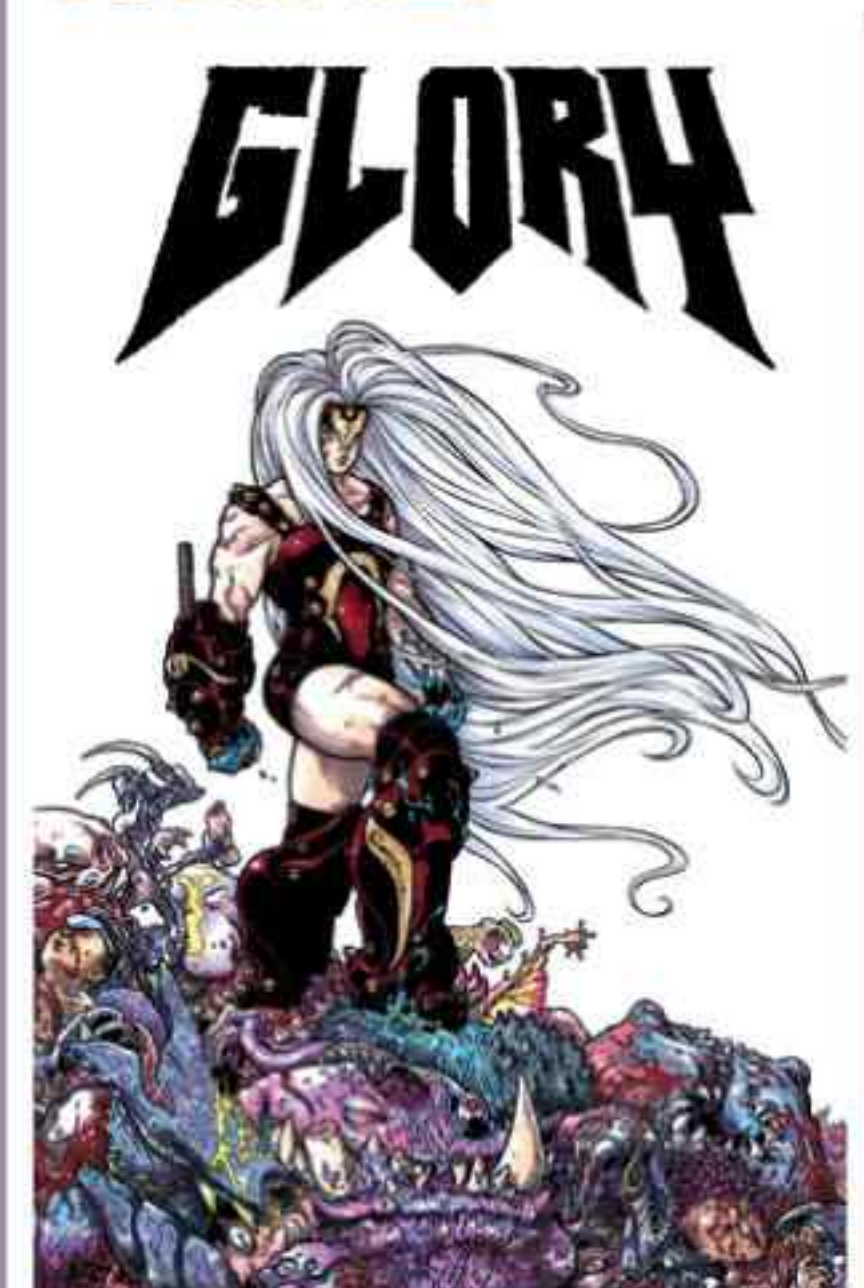
Conrad Paulson lives a secret double life as master thief Redmond. There is nothing he can't steal, nothing he can't have... except for the life he left behind. Now, with a grown son he hardly knows, and an ex-wife he never stopped loving, Conrad must try to piece together what's left of his life, before the FBI finally catch up to him... but it appears they are the least of his worries.

ALPHA GIRL #1



It's 1984, and Judith is your typical 17 year old. She chain smokes, cuts class, sells her tampons to perverts, and she just might be the last sane woman left on the planet. When a third-rate cosmetics company creates a pheromone that turns women into crazed man-eaters, the world dives into chaos. Judith must break her little brother out of juvie, all the while dodging rabid women and the men who hunt them. Judith is Alpha Girl!

GLORY #23



After missing for almost a decade, *Glory's* whereabouts are uncovered by a lone reporter, but the globe-spanning conspiracy keeping her hidden from humanity could make her return more dangerous than anyone ever anticipated! This first issue of a brand-new saga written by Eisner & Harvey-award winner JOE KEATINGE and illustrated by *Wet Moon* and *Shadoweyes* creator ROSS CAMPBELL sets up *Glory's* future by expanding on her past in a way promising to shock long-time fans and excite all-new readers!

NO PLACE LIKE HOME #1



Dee's life is in turmoil when her parents are killed in a freak tornado. Returning to Kansas for the funeral after five years in LA, Dee discovers Emeraldsville is the same unexciting place it was when she left - until the bizarre unexplained murders begin. With an unknown killer closing in, the events of one night in 1959 begin to unravel as a portal to a world of horror opens, a portal paved with yellow bricks...

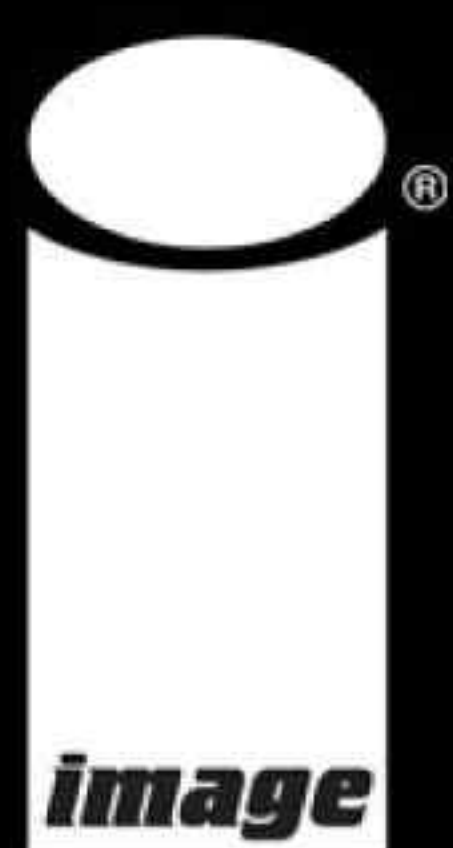


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